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SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

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CONTENTS

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

FRG Geology Expedition to Antarctic Concluded (THE PRESS, 25, 26 Feb 80)	1
Returns Early First Trip in 40 Years	
Russian Bases Ring Antarctic (THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 3 Apr 80)	3
Notable Geological Find in Antarctica (THE PRESS, 12 Feb 80)	5
Socioeconomic Survey of Asian, Pacific States (BUSINESS TIMES, 10 Mar 80)	7
Briefs	
Philippines-Nauru Fertilizer Project	9
Soviet Route to Antarctic	9

BANGLADESH

President Lauds Armed Forces at Independence Day Parade (THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 28 Mar 80)	10
Prime Minister Addresses Independence Day Rally (THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 28 Mar 80)	12
Foreign Leaders Greet President on Independence Day (THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 28 Mar 80)	15
Dissension Appears in Bangladesh National Party (Abul Mohsen; BUSINESS TIMES, 14 Mar 80)	17

CONTENTS (Continued)

President Speaks on Problems of Judiciary (THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 30 Mar 80)	19
President Tells MP's of Agricultural Policy (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 28 Mar 80)	26
President Describes Progress in Rural Areas (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 29 Mar 80)	28
Role of Private Sector in Country's Economy Outlined (S. H. Kabir; THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 29, 30 Mar 80) ..	30
Briefs \$50-Million Accord With Poland	36

BURMA

Burmese Peasants Organization Central Body Meeting Ends (Rangoon Domestic Service, 24 Apr 80)	37
San Yu Speaks to Magwe, Mandalay Divisional Officials (Rangoon Domestic Service, 25 Apr 80)	41
Briefs Management Blamed for Shortcomings	44

INDIA

Resignations Reduce Nagaland Government to Minority (THE SUNDAY STATESMAN, 30 Mar 80)	45
Kerala Urged To Step Up Decentralization (K. C. John; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 28 Mar 80)	47
Ram Supporters Meet in 'All-India' Janata Convention (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 30 Mar 80)	50
Northeast Seen in Trend To Join Assam Agitation (THE HINDU, 30 Mar 80)	53
Solution to Jammu and Kashmir Imbalances Urged (Editorial; THE HINDU, 28 Mar 80)	55
Indo-Soviet Bid To Export to Third World (ENGINEERING TIMES, 25 Feb, 6 Mar 80)	57
Bhilai Celebrates Indo-Soviet Cooperation (ENGINEERING TIMES, 25 Feb, 6 Mar 80)	58

CONTENTS (Continued)

Soviet Diplomat Pays Visit to CPI(M) Leader (THE STATESMAN, 29 Mar 80)	61
Soviet Delegate Addresses Indian Women's Conference (THE PATRIOT, 29 Mar 80)	63
Further Aid for Scheduled Castes, Tribes Planned (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 29 Mar 80)	64
Minister Confirms Mizo Rebels Getting Foreign Arms (THE PATRIOT, 29 Mar 80)	66
Union Government Orders Closure of Special Courts (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 29 Mar 80)	67
Government Concerned Over Problems of Overseas Workers (THE STATESMAN, 28 Mar 80)	68
Commerce Minister Predicts 'Temporary' Trouble in 1980 (THE SUNDAY STATESMAN, 30 Mar 80)	69
Attack Indicates Factionalism in Outlawed Manipur Party (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 28 Mar 80)	70
Revamping the Power Section in Northern Region (INDUSTRIAL TIMES, 25 Feb-9 Mar 80)	71
First Army Deaths Reported in Mizoram Insurgency (THE STATESMAN, 29 Mar 80)	73
Comptroller General Discusses Delay in Defense Projects (THE STATESMAN, 29 Mar 80)	75
New Type of Plane Engine, Tank Developed (ENGINEERING TIMES, 25 Feb, 6 Mar 80)	76
Sugar Industry Opposes Government Import Plans (THE HINDU, 28 Mar 80)	77
Efficacy of Government Industrial Policy Questioned (Editorial; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 28 Mar 80)	78
Indian Reserve Bank Relaxes Nonfood Credit Curbs (THE STATESMAN, 28 Mar 80)	80
Exports Expected To Rise by 20 Percent in 1980-81 (THE PATRIOT, 28 Mar 80)	81

CONTENTS (Continued)

Huge Trade Deficit for 1979 Fiscal Year (BUSINESS TIMES, 3 Mar 80)	82
Production at Bokaro Steel Plant Off 10 Percent (M. H. Jadhav; THE STATESMAN, 28 Mar 80)	83
Oil, Gas Deposits Found in Arunachal (ENGINEERING TIMES, 21 Feb 80)	84
More Jobs, Job-Seekers Reported for Last Half of 1979 (THE STATESMAN, 28 Mar 80)	85
Briefs	
Indo-Soviet Science Pact	86
State Planning Board	86
Nepal Money Exchange	87
Former Justice Dies	87
Orissa Election Plans	87
Nagaland Resignations	87
Maharashtra Congress (I) Members	87

INDONESIA

Campaign Mounted To Abolish Death Penalty (Ingo Hertel; BUSINESS TIMES, 8 Mar 80)	88
Citizenship Decree May Signal Resumption of China Ties (Soeharjono; BUSINESS TIMES, 11 Mar 80)	89

KAMPUCHEA

DK Minister Thiounn Thioum Reviews Kampuchea Situation (Thiounn Thioum Interview; SIAM RAT, 28 Mar 80)	90
Deserter Claims Chemical Weapons Used in Kampuchea (LE MONDE, 29 Apr 80)	97

LAOS

Localities Report Food Production, Sales (BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN, various dates)	99
Savannakhet Fields Restored	
Oudomsai Sales	
Phon Thong, Champassak Sales	
Khong Sedone, Saravane Sales	
Vientiane Dry Season Rice	
Pak Ou, Luang Prabang Sales	
Savannakhet Fish Sales	
Meuang Sai Sales	

CONTENTS (Continued)

Dry Season Rice
Vang Vieng Sales
Sihottabong, Phon Hong, Siang Kho

Briefs

Phon Hong Literacy Work 102
Pak Ou Cooperative 102

MALAYSIA

Development of Armed Forces To Be Completed by 1983
(NEW STRAITS TIMES, 1 Mar 80) 103

West Malaysia Riding Crest of Trade Boom
(BUSINESS TIMES, 11 Mar 80) 104

All Retail Trade on Metric Basis in 1981
(NEW STRAITS TIMES, 1 Mar 80) 105

Depletion Policy Adopted To Extend Oil Reserves
(NEW STRAITS TIMES, 4 Mar 80) 106

Coupon Subsidy Scheme for Rice Farmers
(BUSINESS TIMES, 5, 13 Mar 80) 107

Circumvents Middlemen
Cash Option

NEPAL

Communists, Other Groups Warn Against Rigged Election
(THE PATRIOT, 30 Mar 80) 109

Preparations Being Made To Meet Severe Food Shortage
(Aditya Man Shrestha; BUSINESS TIMES, 12 Mar 80) 110

PAKISTAN

Pakistanis Angered by Carter Raid on Iran
(THE MUSLIM, 27 Apr 80) 111

Filmed Produced on Afghan Refugees
(BALUCHISTAN TIMES, 20 Apr 80) 112

Alleged Soviet Friendship for Islam Scored
(Editorial; NAWA-I-WAQT, 23 Feb 80) 113

CONTENTS (Continued)

Creditors Show No Willingness To Reschedule Debts (NEW SUNDAY TIMES, 2 Mar 80)	114
Briefs	
Douglas Hurd on Afghanistan	115
PHILIPPINES	
Manila Permitted To Draw on IMF Funds (BUSINESS TIMES, 1 Mar 80)	116
Rice Exports to Neighboring Countries Planned (BUSINESS TIMES, 5 Mar 80)	117
Housing Projects Incorporate Small Business Training (BUSINESS TIMES, 13 Mar 80)	118
SRI LANKA	
Finance Minister Says Country Facing 'Severe' Crisis (THE PATRIOT, 30 Mar 80)	119
Briefs	
Worst Drought in Century	120
THAILAND	
RTA To Arrest Border Traders Dealing in Material (TAWAN SIAM, 31 Mar 80)	121
Lawyers Ask for More Freedom of Press (TAWAN SIAM, 27 Mar 80)	123
Closure of USICA Office Protested (SIAM RAT, 27 Mar 80)	125
Columnist Hits Khmer Serei 'Bandits' (Chen Charik; TAWAN SIAM, 27, 28 Mar 80)	128

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

FRG GEOLOGY EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTIC CONCLUDED

Returns Early

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 25 Feb 80 p 6

[Text] A West German Antarctic expedition is expected in Timaru tomorrow, on the first leg of a homeward voyage aboard the Schepelsturm.

The expedition set up a camp for scientific work at Little Glacier, in north Victoria Land. Working in an area touched before only by New Zealand sledge expeditions, the West Germans studied geology.

The research programme had to be reduced in the last two weeks after a fault developed in one of the expedition's three helicopters.

Blizzards delayed the return of scientists and equipment to the Schepelsturm, until last Wednesday.

Fuel supplies and a camp were left behind at Little Glacier for next summer season's researchers.

The expedition will call at Wellington, probably next Friday.

First Trip in 40 Years

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 26 Feb 80 p 2

[Excerpts] The port of Timaru was "landfall" yesterday for the 1598-tonne icebreaker Schepelsturm, which returned to her base after the first German expedition to the Antarctic for 40 years. The crew and members of the expedition, which ended officially at Timaru, will be accorded "red carpet" treatment.

Captain Udo Rieck and his officers will be welcomed tomorrow at a civic luncheon by the Mayor of Timaru (Mr S.R. Bennett) and the chairman of the Timaru Harbour Board (Mr B.J. Petrie). The crew and members of the 20-man Antarctic North Victoria Land expedition will be entertained at a cocktail function.

The vessel sailed from Timaru on December 6, taking 5-1/2 days on the outward journey and spending about 70 days in the Antarctic region, 800km northwest of Scott Base.

The Hansa Line ship is expected to leave for Wellington tomorrow evening en route for Japan, where she will be chartered to a Japanese oil company. The expedition is disbanding, and many of the overseas scientists and technicians will leave Christchurch by air today.

The expedition is a cosmopolitan group. It consists of 11 Germans and seven New Zealanders (a scientist, four helicopter crew, and two field guides), an American, and an Australian.

Heading the team of West German scientists and technicians who made geological studies in North Victoria Land was Dr Franz Tessensohn, a geologist in the Antarctic Division of the Federal Institute of Geoscience at Hanover.

"We are extremely satisfied with what we have accomplished," said Dr Tessensohn. The expedition was familiar with one region, and looked forward to the International North Victoria Land activities in 1981-82. The group's Sikorski helicopter had been used for transport, and two Hughes 500D helicopters had been most useful for reconnaissance and ferrying the geologists and supplies to land.

The Schepelsturm left Cape Williams, North Victoria Land, at 10 p.m. on February 20.

"Our chief aim was to examine the boundary between the old East Antarctic Shield and the young mountain ranges to the east. We did not find the shield," Dr Tessensohn said. "This was in an area furthest away from the ship and the land base at the side of the Lillie Glacier. It was right at the edge of the polar ice-cap."

It had been planned to visit the Weddell Sea area in the 1980-81 season, but plans were not settled, said Dr Tessensohn. "We would like to have the Schepelsturm back to use in 1981-82, as it is adapted to ice conditions. She is quite powerful, and there were no problems with pack ice."

The group's only contact with the second West German expedition which sailed from Ushuaia, Argentina, last December to survey the site for a permanent base in the Antarctic on the Filchner ice shelf was for a short period before Christmas.

CSO: 4220

RUSSIAN BASES RING ANTARCTIC

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 3 Apr 80 p 1

[Text]

The establishment of a new Russian base in Antarctica has completed a virtual encirclement of the continent by Soviet scientific stations.

The new base, named Russkaya, was set up during the recent summer season and marks the latest stage of a major build-up of Soviet Antarctic activity.

It has been seen as a pointer to possible territorial claims to be made by the Soviet Union at the time of the Antarctic Treaty review in 1991.

The Soviet Union is not the only country to have increased its scientific effort in Antarctica and it has so far adhered strictly to the terms of the treaty.

Exploitation

Like the United States, it has disregarded territorial claims which have already been made.

The treaty review could herald a new era of resource exploitation in Antarctica, however, and land claims

could be lodged on the basis of a previous scientific presence.

The new Russian base was built on a rocky outcrop in Marie Byrd Land, unclaimed territory bordering on New Zealand's Ross Dependency.

The terrain is regarded as among the most difficult in the continent and it took an effort spread over several years before construction of the base was completed on March 10.

Intervals

A spokesman for the Antarctic division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research said the completion of the base capped an increase in the Soviet effort in Antarctica which dated back to the early 1970s.

In that time the Russians had established a new base almost every second year, he said, "and we now find that Russian stations circle the continent at intervals of about 1000 kilometres.

"It is hard to see what

they are after," the spokesman said.

"They can say they are undertaking scientific work — which, of course, they are — but they have spread a much wider network of bases than other countries.

"The other countries (operating in Antarctica) have tended to stay in particular areas, either because these are close to the home country — as with New Zealand's Scott Base — or for ease of access."

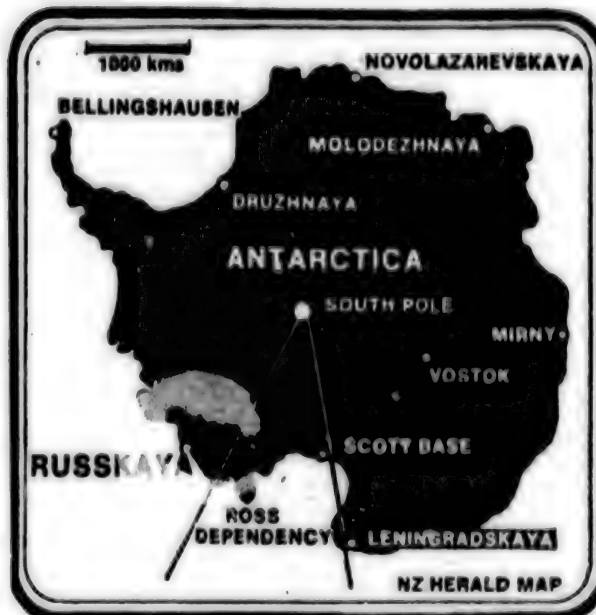
The new base was not the only example of a Soviet build-up in Antarctica, the spokesman added. He said the division had noticed increased traffic arriving from a Russian transit base on Madagascar.

The base was now used by six or more ships for extended annual trips to Antarctica and it had been used for the first time this year as a staging point for Moscow-based aircraft.

Asked whether the build-up was viewed with any apprehension by the division, the spokesman said the possibility of even greater Russian activity was the main concern.

If they decided to "fill in the gaps" in their present network of bases, a new station could be built in the Ross Dependency area.

And under the terms of the present Antarctic treaty, New Zealand would be bound to allow it—and lend assistance.



CSO: 4220

NOTABLE GEOLOGICAL FIND IN ANTARCTICA

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 12 Feb 80 p 13

[Text] The recent discovery in eastern Antarctica of freshwater shell-fish fossils is expected to create considerable interest in the geological world.

The fossils were found in the Ohio Mountains by a team of three geologists led by the curator of geology at the Canterbury Museum (Mrs Margaret Bradshaw).

The Ohio Mountains are 1300km southeast of Scott Base, and less than 600km from the South Pole.

Accompanying Mrs Bradshaw was Dr Karl Kellog, of Boulder, Colorado, and Dr Lucy Force, of Washington. The field leader of the party, responsible for the safety of the small group, was Mr Graeme Ayres, a ranger from the Mount Cook National Park.

Mrs Bradshaw said that for many years geologists had known that about 260 million years ago forests grew in Antarctica on the banks of rivers and lakes. "The clam we found probably lived in a pond in one of the forests. No-one had found such a specimen in this age of rock in the Antarctic mountains before," she said.

"It is always exciting when a fossil is found for the first time in a particular area," said Mrs Bradshaw. "Any fossil is a clue to the environment in which it was deposited. The fossils we discovered in the Antarctic will help geologists to build a picture of what the land was like in that particular age."

The expedition also discovered the walking and feeding tracks of a tribo-lite, an extinct segmented insect similar to a slater. Fossils of the insect had been found in Antarctica before, but this was the first discovery of their tracks.

Another important find was made in a lower and much older set of rocks. Marine deposits were found in areas previously thought to contain river deposits.

Dr Kellogg was particularly interested in the magnetism of rocks, which will help determine the position of Antarctica in relation to the other continents when the rocks were formed.

Mrs Bradshaw said that the discoveries modified earlier theories about the geology of the area, and gave a more detailed account of the old environment. "Every discovery is one more bit of information which can be used to reconstruct the past," she said.

She had proposed the expedition into the Ohio Mountains so that she could compare Antarctic geological formations with studies she had made in Reefton of rocks of a similar age.

Bad weather in Antarctica prevented the expedition from finishing their work. Of 50 days in the field, 19 were fine, but the team still managed to work on 30 days. They encountered rough snow and ice, and their sledges were often overturned. Deep snow covered many of the rock outcrops and many rock faces were inaccessible because of overhanging ice cliffs and crevasses.

"In spite of all the difficulties, it was a successful trip and the bulk of the work was completed," said Mrs Bradshaw.

Some of the specimens will be exhibited at the Fifth International Gondwana Symposium to be held in Wellington later this month. Later Mrs Bradshaw hopes to display the specimens in the Canterbury Museum.

CSO: 4220

SOCIOECONOMIC SURVEY OF ASIAN, PACIFIC STATES

Asian Lampoon BUSINESS TIMES in English 10 Mar 80 p 20

[Text]

MALAYSIA, Hong Kong and Fiji were the only countries in the Asian and Pacific region which sustained higher economic growth rates last year, according to a study carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Ecasap).

The economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1979, shows that Malaysia registered a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 8.1 per cent last year against 7.4 per cent in 1978.

The better performance in Malaysia was attributed to the petroleum industry.

Hong Kong's growth rate was impressive at 12 per cent against 1978's growth of 10 per cent. The colony's re-export trade with China played a big role in the improved performance.

Fiji, with favourable weather conditions and the recovery of the foreign market for its major commodity, sugar, registered a 7.5 per cent increase in GDP, against its sluggish 3 per cent performance in 1978.

Growth rates in other Asian countries were: Indonesia 5.5 per cent (7.2 per cent in 1978), Philip-

pines 5.4 per cent (6 per cent), Singapore 4.5 per cent (4.4 per cent) and Thailand 4.3 per cent (4.7 per cent).

In the agricultural sector, Ecasap notes that the ratification of the United Nations-sponsored natural rubber agreement at the end of 1979 should end the price uncertainties which had dogged this product.

It says, however, that Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand, which together produce four-fifths of the world's natural rubber, would face stiff competition from synthetic rubber in the 1980s.

On tropical hardwoods, it says serious shortages had prompted governments to curtail shipments of logs from major exporting countries such as Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

Ecasap predicts good prospects for major producers of coconut and palm oil, namely Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

India benefited from rising demand for jute and jute products.

Pakistan's cotton harvest fell by 18 per cent in 1978/79 but recovery could be expected.

On manufacturing, Ecasap says the survey observes an aggregate growth in this sector in 1978 but a severe downturn in the latter part of 1979.

It shows "at best an erratic and at worst an uncertain pattern of growth."

Best growth rates were achieved in economies where the textile and garment industries predominated, namely, Hong Kong, Philippines and South Korea.

Electrical and electronic products flourished in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Singapore, particularly for export.

The survey observes that there had been attempts of individual countries to accommodate the changing structure of the international economy.

For example, Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea were attempting to move away from labour-intensive manufacturing to high-technology and heavy industry.

Conversely, China and Sri Lanka were among the most recent to establish export-oriented industrial zones, dependent

on labour-intensive methods.

On external trade, Escap says inflation and increasing production costs, including credit, had dampened expansion of production for export, particularly in the last half of 1979.

Added to increased costs of imports and the doubling of the oil price, the survey paints a grim picture of future expansion of external trade.

Nevertheless, the survey sees a "flattening of the growth curve" in 1980 rather than a precipitous drop.

Major exporters of manufactures were Hong Kong, South Korea, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines.

The survey notes the importance of the growth of exports for the manufacturing sector but cautions against placing too much confidence on "off-shore processing and assembly operations which are highly vulnerable to

shifts in external demand."

"These internationally-designed enclaves contribute minimally to the net value of exports," says the survey, adding that this was due to the large proportion of imported inputs used.

Escap says a major worry facing the developing Asian economies in the 1980s is that if policy makers in the industrialised nations sustain their efforts to overcome the continuing inflation, the long feared recession would appear.

If this happens, there will be an imminent decrease in levels of production and consequent increases in unemployment.

Escap suggests, therefore, that long-term plans must be formulated, aimed at not only expanding their export markets but also on the production of essential commodities for domestic use. — Bernama EA

BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES-NAURU FERTILIZER PROJECT--Manila, May 3--The Philippine Government has started joint venture negotiations with the central Pacific Republic of Nauru for the construction of a 370 million U.S. dollar phosphatic fertilizer project in this country. Press reports said Industry Minister Roberto Ongpin had been sitting with Nauru President Hammer Deroburt to discuss the possibility of establishing the Nauru-Philippine Phosphatic Fertilizer Corp. Reports quoted Mr. Ongpin as saying that Nauru, the third country to offer investments in the government project, would be the most ideal source of phosphate rock, being only 3,000 miles away. Other sources of phosphate rock for the country are quite far, Morocco being 9,000 miles away while Florida and North Carolina are even farther by 2,000 miles, reports said. Should negotiations succeed, Nauru would be allowed to invest up to 40 percent or about 40 million dollars in the fertilizer project, which will be set in Leyte Island, central Philippines, adjacent to the government's copper smelter project. [OW031711 Hong Kong AFP in English 0800 GMT 3 May 80]

SOVIET ROUTE TO ANTARCTIC--PA Wellington--The Soviet Union will inaugurate an air route to its Molodyozhnaya Antarctic station today, according to an article released by the Soviet Embassy in Wellington. A bright orange Ilyushin 18 airliner will fly the 16,000 kilometres from Moscow via Odessa, Cairo, Aden, and Maputo in Mozambique. Until now, supplies and personnel have been carried by sea, taking six weeks, thus losing valuable daylight needed for research, the article said. Flights in the 1960s had been via Australia, New Zealand and the American McMurdo Station, taking 10 days, and incurring a dangerous last leg. The new route would be 9000km shorter. The first flight is due to land today on the 3km runway, 26km from Molodyohnaya station. [Text] [Christchurch THE PRESS in English 14 Feb 80 p 6]

CSO: 4220

PRESIDENT LAUDS ARMED FORCES AT INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 28 Mar 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman on Wednesday expressed the firm conviction that the Armed Forces of the country were capable of facing any threat to national independence and sovereignty by demonstrating their deep sense of patriotism; professional skill and; when necessary making supreme sacrifices.

Addressing the Independence Day parade held at the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, President Zia said that the nation had the full confidence in the Armed Forces that they would always achieve outstanding success while discharging the responsibility of keeping the flag of independence high.

He emphasised that the Armed Forces must undergo regular training and remained disciplined for carrying out their great responsibility to the nation.

The President hoped that the Armed Forces would be able to perform their duties with greater efficiency by undergoing high standard of training in near future.

President Zia maintained that the nation holds the Armed Forces in high esteem because they had taken the sacred vow to sacrifice themselves for safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of the country which was achieved at the cost of staggering sacrifices.

Independence Day Parade

The spectacular Independence Day parade at the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar was the main attraction of the day. The parade was of a high standard and earned hearty applause from the spectators.

President Ziaur Rahman took the salute at the parade.

Commanded by Major General Shamsuzzaman, the parade comprised of various units of infantry, mechanised division Navy, Air Force, BDR, the Armed Police Battalion, the Metropolitan Police, the National Cadet Corps, the Reserve police and Special Armed force Ansar battalion, Village Defence Forces, women wings of national Cadet Corps and Ansar.

Brigadier R.A.M. Golam Muktadir and Lt Col Anwarul Kabir were parade Deputy Commander and adjutant, respectively.

The parade was witnessed by members of the Council Parliament, High Court and Supreme Court judges, members of the diplomatic corps and high civil and military officials. Besides, a large number of spectators witnessed the parade.

The magnificent Independence Day parade got off to a start when two units of the participants came out of the underconstruction Jitiya, Sangsad Bhavan with President Zia ascending the saluting dais erected for the purpose.

Bands of the Army headquarters, the Navy Air Force, BDR, and Dacca Metropolitan Police were on the brass and pipes.

President Ziaur Rahman inspected the parade and then addressed the officers and jawans. The members of the parade then rent the air with full-throated national slogans followed by the presentation of the national anthem.

After the infantry marched past the saluting base, the mechanised column gradually passed followed by the floating exhibition by various sector corporations. The band teams displayed their march past which was immediately followed by the display by the fighter and other aircrafts of Bangladesh and other aircrafts of Bangladesh Air Force.

The firefighting vehicles of Bangladesh Fire Service also took part in the show which was followed by the landing of the airborne commandos. The commandos came down from the choppers with the help of ropes to put up march before the spectators. The armoured fleet also took part in the display.

Transport planes, trainer aircrafts and MIG fighters, both 19 and 21, presented spectacular demonstration of skillful flying.

Later, the mechanised column and the floating exhibition brought out a route march through the main city streets.

CSO: 4220

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES INDEPENDENCE DAY RALLY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 28 Mar 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman has said that a government elected by the people cannot be toppled through observance of a few hartals meetings and demonstrations.

He called upon the Opposition political parties to come to power through people's verdict and not through politics of weapon, terrorism and anarchy.

Addressing an Independence Day rally at the Ramna Ground on Wednesday, the Prime Minister said that machinations of any political party to grab power through international conspiracy like staging an "Afghan-type revolution" would also be resisted by the people.

Organised by the Bangladesh National Party (BNP), and presided over by Minister for Sports, Cultural and Religious Affairs Mr Shamsul Ruda Chowdhury, the meeting was also addressed by the Secretary General of the party Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Minister for Works Mr Abdur Rahman Minister for Women Affairs Dr (Mrs) Amina Rahman, chief of the city unit of the party Mr Abul Hasnat, State Minister for Youth Development Mr Abul Kashem, General Secretary of the city unit Mr Abdur Rahim, chief of the cultural front of the party Poet Al Mahmood, Secretary of the women branch of the party Principal Hamida Ali and President of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Mr Enamul Karim Shaheed.

Democracy Restored

Addressing the rally as the main speaker, Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said that the Government of President Ziaur Rahman which had successfully restored democracy in the country by holding elections, lifting martial law and repealing emergency, was determined to fight to the last for its continuation.

He said that democracy in Bangladesh was in its infancy and needed intensive care and nourishment. It was for the sake of democracy that the Government had released political prisoners and declared general amnesty releasing

many nonpolitical prisoners convicted by different courts of law. He regretted that this act of magnanimity of the Government was being misconstrued by some opposition parties as weakness.

Prestige Abroad

Shah Azizur Rahman said that while the Government had successfully pioneered a production-oriented peaceful revolution in the country, it had eked out a prestigious position in the community of nations. "Bangladesh is not alone now. It is an active member of the Third World, Muslim world and non-aligned movement and many countries are helping Bangladesh to make her more stronger" the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister said that in order to ensure smooth functioning of democracy, the present Government had accorded facilities to the Opposition in the Parliament, some of which were inconceivable in any country of the world, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition had been given rank status and facilities equal to the leader and deputy leader of the House. All the Opposition members had been given representation in the recently constituted 36 standing committees of the Jatiya Sangsad, he said.

The Prime Minister said tributes to the martyrs and freedom fighters for their contribution in the war of independence.

Badruddoza

BSS adds: Paying tributes to the martyrs of the war of independence, BNP Secretary General Badruddoza Chowdhury said that unless the country attained economic emancipation the political freedom achieved through a bloody struggle in 1971 would be meaningless.

Explaining the revolutionary programme of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Prof Chowdhury said that these were all aimed at achieving economic emancipation of the toiling masses of the country. Terming the 'Revolution' as peaceful, he pointed out that this revolution would not shed any blood but bring about a radical change in the society.

Shamsul Huda

Religion, Sports and Cultural Affairs Minister Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, who presided over the discussion-meeting, said that the political independence would be meaningless if the people of the soil did not get the taste of freedom.

Abdur Rahman

Works Minister, Mr Abdur Rahman stressed the need for strong determination by the people to take part in the country's development activities.

Amina Rahman

Dr Amina Rahman said that main objective of independence was to reach its fruits to every doorstep of the commonman.

Dacca Municipal Corporation Mayor, Mr Abul Hasnat, said that the dreams of the national heroes, who fought and sacrificed their lives in the liberation war, had not been fulfilled as yet. We must be united and lead the country for economic emancipation, he observed.

The discussion meeting was rounded off with a musical soiree participated by the artists of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Social and Cultural Sangstha.

Earlier, BNP Secretary General Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury placed wreath at the national memorial for the Martyrs at Savar in the morning on behalf of the party and its front organisation. Prof Chowdhury also visited the freedom fighters rest house at Mohammedpur. He garlanded the freedom fighters and distributed sweets among them.

CSO: 4220

FOREIGN LEADERS GREET PRESIDENT ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 28 Mar 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] Heads of State and Government from more countries continued to felicitate President Ziaur Rahman on the occasion of the 10th Independence Day wishing progress and prosperity for the people of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

President Leonid Brezhnev of the USSR in a message of felicitation to President Zia expressed his confidence that the relations of friendship and cooperation between his country and Bangladesh "meet the interests of the peoples of our countries and the interests of strengthening peace and international security."

The Soviet president said "on the occasion of the Independence Day of Bangladesh, I extend to you, Mr President, and to the friendly people of Bangladesh congratulations and best wishes."

Vice-President Lazar Kolisevski of the Presidency of Yugoslavia in his message of felicitation on behalf of President Tito, and the presidency and people of Yugoslavia, expressed "most cordial felicitation and best wishes for the comprehensive progress of the friendly people of Bangladesh."

The Yugoslav Vice-President also expressed his firm conviction that the traditional friendship and ever wider cooperation between the two countries would continue in future to contribute to the close relationship of the two peoples as well as to a consequent realisation of the policy of nonalignment.

Amir of Kuwait

Amir of Kuwait Jaber Al-Sabah in his message to President Zia conveyed "warmest felicitation and best wishes for your Excellency's personal happiness and for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Bangladesh."

U.A.E. President

President Zayed Bin Sultan al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates in a message of greetings extended "sincere congratulations" to President Zia and wished more greater achievements toward the prosperity and progress of the "brotherly people of Bangladesh."

Soeharto

President Soeharto of Indonesia, in his message of congratulations to President Zia, expressed the hope that the existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries would continue to "prosper" in the years to come.

Similar messages were also received from President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia, President Kustjan Fidjarn of Iceland, President Gustav Husak of Czechoslovakia, President Ellis Clarke of Trinidad and Tobago, President Pal Losonczi of Hungary, President Hafez Al-Assad of Syria, Emperor Hirohito of Japan, President Rudolf Kirshschlaeger of Austria, Pope Paul II of the Vatican, President Kim Il Sung of North Korea, Sultan of Oman Qaboos Bin Said, Amir of Qatar Khalifa Bin Hamad and al-Thani, heir apparent and Minister of Defence of Qata, Hamad Bin Khalifa al-Thani, Amir of Bahrain Isa Bin Salman al-Khalifa, President Jose Lopez Portillo of Mexico, President Urho Kekkonen of Finland, Grand Duke of Luxemburg Jean, President Tudor Zhivkov of Bulgaria and President of Japan-Bangladesh Association Takashi Hayakawa, M.P.

CSO: 4220

DISSENSION APPEARS IN BANGLADESH NATIONAL PARTY

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 14 Mar 80 p 6

[Article by Abul Mohsen in Dacca]

[Text]

WITH a great deal going for him in the country's parliamentary democracy, reintroduced last year after four years of martial law, President Ziaur Rahman now faces a problem that he probably least expected — dissension within his own ruling party.

Some experts here say this is a problem that the soldier-turned-politician may also be least equipped to handle with complete success.

The much talked-about dissension within President Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) seems to have been grossly exaggerated by local political pundits. But even if it is confined to rumblings, it certainly involves a number of top personalities who, a year ago, were instrumental in the party's overwhelming victory at the polls.

The dissension surfaced last month when Deputy Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed was unceremoniously dismissed from the Cabinet by the President. It was a move taken "in the interest of the party and the nation,"

a brief official announcement said.

The ouster of Moudud, a London-trained barrister who was once jailed by the late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, came less than a month after the ruling BNP parliamentary party had passed a resolution calling for "democratisation" of the organisation's decision-making process. Moudud played a leading role in piloting the offending resolution in question, along with the other Deputy Prime Minister, Jamaluddin Ahmed.

Soon after his dismissal, Moudud addressed a Press conference and defended his position not only on the question of the need for inner democracy in the party but also against some officially-inspired rumours of corruption charges.

Moudud went out with a whimper. But his call for democratisation of the ruling party may be anything but a dead issue, not in a country where any suggestion of autocracy at the top raises a popular outcry.

There is little doubt that all this talk of "democracy within the party" has touched some raw nerves within the administration. Moudud's dismissal was followed by rumour of a major Cabinet reshuffle, dismissal of one or two more ministers and expulsion of half-a-dozen members from the parliamentary party.

Some experts believe that the purge has been indefinitely postponed; others say that President Zia will make his next move just when it is least expected to minimise the danger of a political backlash.

According to one theory, President Zia is reluctant to risk a political shakeup at a time when the situation in South Asia looks particularly sensitive, against the background of Indira Gandhi's return to power in India and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. President Zia, it is said, is determined to keep his problem to himself, away from the limelight.

No one really knows if the President's strategy will work for any length

of time. Much depends on what cooperation he and his lacklustre Prime Minister, Shah Asisur Rahman, can get from Cabinet ministers whose names have been bracketted with Moudud Ahmed.

Among these party members, the two most important are Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed and Major-General (retired) Nurul Islam, the Agriculture Minister. Because of his army background and his age — he is barely 40 — General Islam is a key man in the government as well as in the party. Another important party man who is said to be working with the dissident group is the BNP chief whip, Abul Hasnat, who is also Dacca mayor.

While General Islam is too important a man to be cast aside by the President, he is said to be one minister whose differences with President Zia relate to some major policy matters in agriculture. He is reported to be against the government's emphasis on canal digging programme which provides employment to

landless peasants. General Islam, according to sources, feels the project serves no purpose until a well thought-out land reform scheme is put into practice.

How strong is the case for democratising the decision-making process of the ruling party? Can President Zia be accused of being dictatorial as hinted by some party dissidents?

The BNP constitution gives President Zia as the party chairman the right to nominate the 121-member central executive and the 12-member high command as well as appoint the party officials. Although there is a party national council and a central committee, they have no say in the election of the highest party leadership.

The parliament where the BNP has a two-thirds majority does not, for all practical purposes, affect the position of President Zia and the government. Floor crossing is forbidden constitutionally and anybody doing so would automatically lose parliamentary membership.

— Depthnews

PRESIDENT SPEAKS ON PROBLEMS OF JUDICIARY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 30 Mar 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman said in Dacca on Saturday that it was the "professed policy" of the Government to fulfill the constitutional obligation of separating judiciary from the executive, which was "no longer controversial," reports BSS.

While inaugurating the two-day advocates' conference, sponsored by Bangladesh Bar Council on Saturday morning, President Zia said, the first step towards this separation was making law for the constitution of magistracy in the two metropolitan cities of Dacca and Chittagong.

He said the metropolitan magistracies in the two cities, which are "completely independent of the executive branch of the Government," have already started functioning. He also declared that in the near future "we shall try to separate the magistracy from the executive in the districts as well."

The function was held at the auditorium of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association. It was presided over by Khandoker Abu Bakr, Chairman, Bangladesh Bar Council, the Chief Justice of Bangladesh, Mr Justice Kamaluddin Hussain, and the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the conference Mr Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed also spoke.

The President referred to the petition for mercy granting general amnesty and appeal facilities to those who had been convicted by special and martial law courts. He said that petitions for mercy submitted by the condemned prisoners were always attended with utmost consideration and in deserving cases sentences of death were commuted on humanitarian grounds. "But, forgive me, if I could not really agree that all persons convicted and sentenced under martial law should be given general amnesty or right of appeal to the Supreme Court" he added.

"Of course," the President said, "the Government grants some sort of general amnesty periodically to the deserving convicts."

The President said that no such amnesty could be granted "en masse" to all convicts under the martial law. He said a trial, conviction or sentence could not be called bad simply because it had been held or given by a special court under a special law."

He said, "Nor a review in place of an appeal should be deemed unacceptable only because regular appellate courts have not been brought into the picture."

What to mind is important, the President said, is to see whether any substantial justice was denied to any accused. "We do not admit that such justice cannot be imparted by any forum or tribunal other than the ordinary courts. We view the importance of special tribunals, special courts and even the village courts in this light," he observed.

Regarding the utility of "special laws" and "special courts," the President said that the utility of such laws and courts could not be denied in the circumstances prevailing in the country.

Special Law, Court

The President said the "special laws were made to tackle special situation and special courts were necessary for trial of offences under extraordinary situations."

In this connection, he pointed out, the law of a country acquires a meaning and purpose if it is pertinent to its requirements and guarantees national security and integrity. He also said, "We cannot allow society to fall apart and the miscreants to have free play and thereby to create a havoc in the country."

He said the stringent measures and deterrent punishment were more relevant in such cases than the theory of abstract justice." He said these special systems were "essentially temporary" and whenever the extraordinary circumstances would cease to exist, those special laws would be redundant. He also said that these laws, some of them made earlier, are being abolished one by one.

Expansion of Judiciary

The President also agreed that the expansion of the judiciary could not keep pace with the needs of the increasing population. He said that the number of courts cannot be increased overnight and experienced judges cannot be produced for a mere asking.

He also reminded the lawyers by saying that in order to maintain independence and integrity of the judiciary, utmost caution should be taken in selecting the members of the judiciary. He told the advocates that for creation of new courts availability of adequate funds, accommodations, needs and

requirements of judges and members of their profession and facilities for the litigant public should have to be considered in their true perspectives."

In this context, the President said that his Government is considering the creation of some new or additional courts in different parts of the country and also increasing the number of judges. He assured the lawyers that during the country's Second Five-Year Plan the Government would be able to construct some new and additional courts to cope with the increasing needs. Besides, he said, the renovation of existing ones are being actively considered by the Government.

Benefits for Judges

Referring to the demand for increasing the remuneration and fringe benefits of the members of the judiciary and the judges, the President said the Government had not only given importance to these requirements but also taken concrete steps. He said, the judges of the Supreme Court are now enjoying the highest salaries payable to any elected or appointed public or civil servant in the country and are entitled to privileges and facilities which were never allowed to them before. Even the district judges, he said, are now allowed not only free residential accommodation but also official transports. Besides, he said, you must be aware that the scale of pay of the district judges is now higher than that of deputy commissioners and the additional district judges have been brought at par with that of the deputy commissioners. "All this reflects the Government's anxiety to see that the members of the judiciary feel free and administer justice with dignity," he added.

Appointment, Removal

Regarding the appointment and removal of judges of the Supreme Court the President said, under the Fourth Amendment of the constitution it could be done by a mere wish of the head of the state. By subsequent amendments, the clause was eliminated and now they cannot be removed except on the recommendation of the Supreme Judicial Council. President Zia also pointed out that under the Fourth Amendment, the President had the absolute authority in all matters relating to control and discipline of the members of the subordinate judiciary. As a result of the subsequent amendments, during the last few years, it was now constitutional obligation on the part of the President to consult the Supreme Court in the matter of posting, promotion, and granting leave and discipline of the members of the subordinate judiciary.

Regarding the reforms introduced in the civil and criminal laws, he said these were made after careful consideration of the various recommendations submitted to the government by the Law Reforms Committee headed by the present Chief Justice of the country as well as two previous law reforms commissions. Elaborating the subject, the President observed, there is nothing like finality in the field of legislation. He also said that if any further amendment in the laws were called for, the Government would not hesitate to take required steps.

Constraints

Digressing from the written speech, President Zia told the gathering that most of the problems that the nation was facing today emanated from financial difficulties and constraints.

He said that we had to start from a very low point when the situation was such that the country needed national security and the people basic protection. The country was like bottomless basket insofar as its economy was concerned. In this connection, he pointed that during the 200 years of colonial rule the country was sucked in every sector. The nation was suppressed and the people were oppressed.

The President further said many of the laws enacted when the country was in colonial bondage might have defects. We have to rectify those laws giving careful and coolheaded considerations so that problems were not multiplied in the process of removing those defects.

He said that creation of trust and confidence among the people was the crying need of the hour to ensure the country's stride toward progress and prosperity. We are launching the Second Five Year plan in a big way because we want material production to meet our basic needs and export our goods to fetch foreign exchange.

The President said that the country needed enough money to finance its development programmes and pay for the services received from the employees in various sectors. The money could be generated if only the people worked hard and production increased in the fields.

Food Production

He expressed his firm belief that doubling of food production was not a mere dream but it could be a reality. He asked all to look at the wheat production in the country this season and said that the country would produce four million tons of wheat next year.

President Zia was confident of achieving self-sufficiency in food in the next few years and said that the nation could also earn money for exporting its surplus foodgrains. This amount would be utilised for the speedy and rapid development of the country he added.

Referring to canal digging programme, he informed the gathering miles after miles of canals and rivers had been dug and reexcavated to ensure production on thousands of acres of land round the year. The success in this programme had proved that nothing was impossible to attain if the people could be mobilised he asserted.

He told the lawyers that his frank and free observations on many issues affecting the nation were not in the spirit of criticism but in light of

his experience. Turning to the problems of the advocates, President Zia assured them that he would leave no stone unturned to make attempts to get them solved. "In shallah I am confident, we shall be able to find solutions to these problems," he said.

The President recalled the contributions made by the lawyers and jurists toward the solution of a sound legal system in the country and said that the country would remain grateful to them for their contribution.

Chief Justice

Mr Justice Kamaluddin Hossain threw light on the problems confronting the country's judiciary in the dispensation of justice. Describing legal practice as a noble profession, he called upon the lawyers to keep high their professional conduct in the discharge of their responsibility to protect the democratic fundamental rights of the people and preserve the rule of law. As the lawful guardian of the lawyers the Bar Council should see to it that the image of this noble profession was not tarnished by the misconduct of any lawyers.

The Chief Justice referred to the increase in the number of advocates in legal profession and said that there was need for increased number of lawyers to cope with the demands of ever-increasing population. But the increases in the number of advocates should be rationed with the increase of their professional and qualitative efficiency he said and noted that lately gradual deterioration of qualitative standard was being observed among the advocates.

He attributed the deterioration of standard of the new advocates to two main factors, one was undesirable increase in the number of "low-standard" private law colleges and the other was the enrollment of advocates by the Bar Council irrespective of their quality. He, therefore, suggested that a judge of the High Court Division should be appointed chairman of the Enrollment Committee.

Change of Law

Mr Justice Kamaluddin Hossain pointed that change of laws became indispensable with the change in the social system as well as system of government. Failure to effect necessary changes in laws under the changed circumstances invited injustice and misrule in the society, he said and hastened to add that in a democratic society it was not possible to change any law without mobilising public opinion.

He drew the attention of all to the two main burning problems in respect of law reforms which are share cropping system and the law of benami transaction.

He said that there was no law on share cropping system in the country although it had been continuing from the days of permanent settlement system introduced during the British rule. Terming this system as half feudalist

and slavish opposed to democracy, he called upon the Bar Council to come forward with an effective programme for bringing about a radical change in this undemocratic system through land reforms.

The Chief Justice maintained that the present share cropping system was only helping the absentee land owners, feudal lords, educated and wealthy people living in towns on the pains, deprivation, tears and toils of the poverty stricken, landless and illiterate peasantry.

Referring to the baneful effects of the law of benami than sanction on the society the Chief Justice was of the view that it was the source of all pervasive corruption tax evasion and misconduct. He said that the source of this benami law was ambiguous and that it was not based on any moral foundation. Pleading for its repeal, he maintained that "so long as this law would prevail the purpose of anticorruption law or tax law and land reform efforts would continue to be frustrated."

Pay Increase

Mr Justice Kamaluddin Hossain in his speech made a strong plea for increasing the salaries and other facilities of the Supreme Court judges and others in the judiciary services. In this context he said "We are now confronted with such a situation in which the independence of higher and subordinate judiciary is being threatened to be disturbed." Elaborating he pointed out that the judges of the Supreme Court Division had been facing economic crisis due to fall in the value of their inadequate salary in the wake of inflation. It had now become difficult to attract any efficient lawyer of the bar to the post of judges of Supreme Court, he said in the light of his own experience. He called for giving adequate facilities to the Supreme Court judges so that lawyers felt attracted to these posts.

The Chief Justice also referred to the dearth of judges and judicial officials in the district and subdivisional courts inadequate number of court buildings and dilapidated condition of the existing ones and urged the Government to do the needful in these respects.

Syed Ishtiaq

Earlier in his address of welcome, Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Chairman, Reception Committee, expressed his satisfaction over the withdrawal of emergency and restoration of fundamental rights to the people.

He stressed the paramount need for expansion of judiciary to cope with the ever-increasing demand on our courts and at the same time noted with regret that there had been no development grant noted in the budget for judiciary. The budget for judiciary grant including the superior courts equalled to the grant made for animal husbandry, he added.

Demanding independence of judiciary from the executive, Mr Ahmed said, "We in the profession do wish and hope that the original dispensation as enshrined in the Constitution of 1972 should not only be restored but given effect to."

Referring to the Law Reforms Ordinance of 1978, he said that this piece of legislation had agitated the minds of the lawyers and that grievances had been voiced by different professional bodies against this ordinance. He also demanded the publication of the recommendations made by the Law Reforms Committee.

He pleaded for elected Chairman of the Bar Council, attractive remunerations for the judges, right of appeal to the Supreme Court by those convicted and sentenced by military tribunals increase in the number of courts and also of judicial officers.

The two-day conference will be split into several sessions both in the morning and afternoon, in which eminent lawyers of the country will present papers and hold discussions on judicial problems affecting the life of people.

CSO: 4220

PRESIDENT TELLS MP'S OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Dacca: THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Mar 80 p 1

[Text]

JOYDEVPUR March 27:—President Ziaur Rahman said here today that doubling of the food production, mass education and planned family were the three main principles of the present Revolution reports BSS.

President Zia was addressing a discussion meeting on agriculture research management participated by the members of Parliament at CERDI auditorium here. The meeting was aimed at acquainting the MPs with methods of cultivation of HYV foodgrains.

He said that lack of a central planning system in the agriculture sector had prevented the country from obtaining the maximum output. He said Bangladeshi farmers were basically illiterate and their approach to cultivation was not at all scientific.

He called upon the MPs to give leadership in this regard. 'We have to motivate the farmers towards modern cultivation which would help them produce enough foodgrains to meet their own needs as well as that of the country,' he added.

President Zia stressed the

need for bringing the entire country under irrigation system to get the maximum benefit. He also called for agricultural reform. He said, 'we do not want to take away the lands but we must see that every inch of land is utilised properly.'

President Zia said the Government had to import 20 to 25 lakh tons of foodgrains annually. He said this could be checked if people changed their food habit by also eating bread.

Explaining the bright prospect of wheat cultivation, President Zia said that 15 lakh tons of wheat were produced in the country this year while the target for the next year had been fixed at 40 lakh tons.

The President expressed the hope that the country would attain self-sufficiency in wheat in the next year. He asked the participants to motivate the farmers to grow more wheat during the entire winter season. Describing wheat cultivation as key to self-sufficiency in food, he said there was bright prospect of producing the best quality of wheat within the next four years' time.

President Zia also stressed the need for cotton cultivation to meet country's requirements. He said 'we can even export cotton after meeting our own requirement if we cultivate cotton only. In one million are out of total 25 million acres of cultivable lands.'

President Zia said that village committees would be formed to guide the peasants. He called upon the workers to set up small manufacturing plants of pump tubewells for irrigation at thana level. The Government would provide loans for the purpose, the President assured.

Dwelling on the doubling of the food production, President Zia said it would also solve the unemployment problem to a large extent. About one crore youths could be absorbed if the programme became successful, he said.

Reminding the MPs of their task in attaining self-sufficiency in food in their respective areas, the President said 'if you succeed in this you will be able to return to Parliament through election the next time'.

Planning Minister Dr Fasihuddin Mahtab, Agriculture Minister Major General (Retd)

Nurul Islam and State Minister for Agriculture Dr Iqbal Mahmood also spoke on the occasion.

The agricultural Minister in his speech stressed the need for proper utilisation of the inputs and other resources including water for planned cultivation. He said at present only eight lakh acres of land were being irrigated while facilities were there for 32 lakh acres.

He said that Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) had set up a new department for supply high quality of seeds. The seeds would be sent to farmers after research work was carried out at the centre he added.

Dr Iqbal Mahmood said that at present each agricultural worker was helping about four thousand farmer families at the union level. He said that steps were being taken so that the workers could visit agricultural farms under a 15 day programme where they would grade teach and give solutions to the farmer problems.

Earlier in the morning President Zia inspected farming areas undertaken by BRRI and BARI.

CSO: 4220

PRESIDENT DESCRIBES PROGRESS IN RURAL AREAS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] Rahmatpur (Barisal) Mar. 28--President Ziaur Rahman said here today that the Government had been putting in all-out efforts to develop all under-developed areas with particular emphasis on the villages, reports BSS.

Addressing village level workers and leaders of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the political district of Barisal Sadar South, the President maintained that proper development of the rural areas was the basic prerequisite for achieving overall progress and prosperity for the nation.

President Zia, who is also the Chairman of the BNP, said that the people were now more conscious and that they were determined to make Bangladesh a prosperous country.

President Zia said the first phase of Revolution was heading towards a success "We have received massive response from the people on voluntary excavation and reexcavation of canals and rivers," he said and added "it will continue till a well-organised irrigation system is built up to double food production by cultivating three crops annually." Not an inch of land should remain fallow, he added.

He said the main objective of "our policy is to provide food and other basic requirements to our people."

He said that the people of Bangladesh had rejected the politics of weapons as it could never bring peace and prosperity for the country.

President Zia said that Bangladeshi nationalism would constitute the basis of all political as well as socio-economic activities aimed at ensuring overall development of the country. The concept of Bangladesh nationalism had to be developed on the basis of "our language, culture and hopes and aspirations" he said adding "no foreignism will have any place on the soil of Bangladesh."

He called upon the party workers to organise the people at village level for implementing various socio-economic programmes of the party. The door is open for everyone to be associated with the party, he declared.

President Zia called upon the people who are still in possession of illegal arms to hand them over to the law-enforcing agencies.

Turning to the second phase of Revolution the President reaffirmed that the nation had to be freed from the curse of illiteracy as no development would be possible unless the majority of the population were made lettered. He called upon the educated section of the society to participate in a massive way in the current countrywide literacy campaign.

The President also stressed the need for checking the population explosion.

Earlier, the President opened two newly-excavated canals at Charamaddi and Bhabanipur.

Addressing big gatherings at these places, he congratulated the people for their participation in the projects on voluntary basis. He called for digging more such canals in the country to ensure adequate irrigation facilities so that the country's food production could be doubled within the shortest possible time.

CSO: 4220

ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN COUNTRY'S ECONOMY OUTLINED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 29, 30 Mar 80

[Speech by S. H. Kabir, outgoing president, at 75th annual general meeting of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, date and place not given--published in two parts]

[29 Mar 80, p 5]

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman has undertaken two significant measures during the recent months, one in connection with increasing food production and the other in connection with literacy programme. There may be scope for debate as to the modus operandi but none whatsoever about the absolute necessity of reaching the objectives that the President wishes to achieve.

Those who have the direct responsibility of making the programmes work, have our prayer that the programmes may succeed. The message we have clearly received from the programmes is that the government is willing to take radical measures where merely palliatives will not do. This is an important direction in thinking and in action. The government's open declaration and intent for seeking new ways of development has emboldened us to throw light on other avenues of development.

Between 1976-79 over 1300 industries were recognised and went into production. Around 350 new industries are currently under construction, and we understand that 25 new industrial units will go on production(shortly). These are the results of untiring effort and we have every reason to believe that what we see today is only a beginning.

The observations which I will now make on some broad socio-economic issues are neither original nor unknown. They are important insofar as they are being stated at a time when the draft of the Second Five-Year Plan is being finalised. It is also important because they reflect the views of our Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dacca about the future direction of development.

The fact that we are a poor country, a desperately poor country, must have its reflection on all our plans and activities. Despite the support of the world community, our development needs have to be increasingly met with our own resources. The realities of the world today demand that we do things in our own while welcoming all material support that we can get. Our poverty will show up in our development programmes when we determine our priorities or select technology appropriate to our needs; when we decide whether to buy some of the things that we need or we make time; when we deliberately choose to accept a product of lower quality standard made with local resources when better is available elsewhere in the world; when we opt to increase the cost of good living so that the cost of subsistence living can be reduced. As stated earlier, none of these concepts is new. We believe that further exploration of these and all such ideas is necessary and determined actions needed to find new direction of economic development.

In a resource constrained economy when priorities are set, by definition one sector has to suffer at the cost of another. A realistic examination of the socioeconomic fabric of our country requires some delicate balancing in allocation of resources. Nevertheless, when priorities are determined, gains of one sector at the cost of another are quite noticeable. When they are determined loosely then neither the gain nor the loss is discernable. The objectives are defeated. We believe that our priorities need reexamination in all major areas of socioeconomic activities, be it agriculture, industry, health, education, housing, transportation--whatever. Setting of priority has concomitant risks. Nevertheless, priorities have to be set and the risks taken.

When we buy from the world market, we sacrifice employment opportunities in our country and help create employment opportunities in other countries. Nevertheless, we have to buy many, many things. Because we are a country, which can least afford to sacrifice employment opportunity, we have to be certain that we have no alternative available in our country. Let me give some examples. Before we take decision in importing a fertilizer plant is it worthwhile to explore to what extent it is feasible to replace our needs for inorganic fertilizer with silt from river beds? Can we meet the nitrogen requirement of some of our land areas through growing leguminous plants on them? Can we meet our potash requirement by collecting and burning water hyacinth? What do we lose in productivity by doing these? How much employment do we generate when we adopt these measures? Are such measures cost effective? We need pumps for irrigation. Can we reduce the need by constructing wind mills? Such ideas have been used and they have worked. Will it work for us? With oil prices escalating, how much of our fuel requirement can we meet with gas? How soon? We need answers to such basic and crucial questions before final shape is given to the Second Five-Year Plan.

In many areas we need to import rather than manufacture. A close examination of our industrial policy may well reveal that manufacturing of certain

thing is not really worthwhile. If we have established the need of an item beyond doubt, then a buy vs make analysis is necessary. Formulas which can be applied for this test are many. I am suggesting one. If the cost of buying over a period of 10 years is significantly less than the capital cost and recurring cost of manufacturing locally, then it is illogical to make locally. In doing this both the foreign exchange cost and the total cost should be taken into consideration.

Our society accepts profit and payment based on merit and/or productivity. Within such a system some people will be able to afford a better standard of living than the others. However, in order to avoid diverting too much resources to good living, which has its multiplier and demonstration effect, it is necessary to adopt a policy which makes the cost of good living high so that sustenance at marginal level can be made less expensive. An intense effort need to be made to explore avenues whereby the cost of conspicuous living can be made higher. This objective need only be moderated to the extent that earning ceases to be an incentive.

Since 1976 the government has taken some adhoc measures to revive the moribund Private Sector. The steps taken were pragmatic and have undoubtedly produced the desired results in terms of positive response from our entrepreneurs. However, at the time of launching the Second Five-Year Plan, it is now necessary for the government to commit itself to a policy with regard to the role of the Private and Public Sectors. Not only is it necessary that the policies are announced, the government must be prepared to take such policies to their logical conclusions. If the Private Sector is allowed to make garments and other specialised textile goods then why are they not allowed to set up spinning and weaving units; why jute twines and carpets but not hessian and carpet backing? It is hard to understand the logic behind keeping out the Private Sector from the spinning and weaving units of textile and hessian and carpet backing units of jute. These are certainly not beyond the technical and managerial capability of the Private Sector.

In fact, it is the considered belief of our Chamber, that all Sectors of industry should be open to the Private Sector with the exception of armament industry. We firmly believe that such a declaration should be embodied in the Second Five-Year Plan.

[30 Mar 80 p 7]

[Text] The frontier of the Public Sector activities really must commence where the Private Sector cannot venture on account of the magnitude of the risks or shortage of capital or limitation of managerial or technical know-how. The Public Sector should and must play the role of a pioneer. There is so much to do in the industrial field in Bangladesh and so little time to accomplish it. Duplication of efforts is both undesirable and unnecessary.

We firmly believe that the government should not own any industrial unit which the Private Sector can buy and has the technical and managerial resources to operate. We, however, recognise that transfer of Government owned industry to the Private Sector is a massive task and is likely to take time. Depending upon the policy of the Government, whether such transfers are complete or partial, we think that the following measures should be adopted:

- (a) Major units of all Corporations should be converted to Public Limited Companies, thus bringing them within the ambit of the Company law.
- (b) Shares of such Public Limited Companies should be offered to the Public.
- (c) Services from one such company should not be transferable to another company so that the employees feel that the future of the company and their own is inextricably linked.
- (d) Employment structure should be based on merit and productivity.

For the future plans of our country these decisions need to be taken urgently. If political principles have to be resolved before actions can be taken, then such resolutions cannot wait for too long anymore.

The Private Sector has firmly come forward to participate in the economic development of the country. The Private Sector exists in order to make profit and to support its own growth. In return, it provides goods and services for different segments of the society depending upon the nature of products and services available to each unit of Private Sector. Too many controls stunt the growth of the Private Sector. Unfortunately, one faces situations which impede the growth of the Private Sector and discourage new local entrepreneurs and foreign investors. When projects are prepared by the investors and approved by the Industries Ministry or the Investment Board, they have as their basis many assumptions relating to Import Duties financing requirement, pricing etc. The assumptions accepted by the Investment Board are quite often summarily rejected by the banking institutions, Customs, the pricing cell of Ministry of Commerce and other Government agencies. While some controls are necessary, many others are unnecessary and obstructive. We need your guidance and support to remove such controls which only impede without any purpose. We also suggest that some of your valued time may be spent with Chambers and Associations to extend the concept of no subsidy--no control. Most of our industry will thrive without subsidy provided controls are removed and competitions generated.

A few words on jute--the mainstay of our economy. Some of the problems which we face in jute are shortterm ones. These are generally known. We have too much jute of lower grades in our warehouses. Our industry is not able to consume enough of these grades and the policies for export are such that they cannot be sold in the world market in quantities that we

need to sell. There is an imperative necessity of liquidating the stock of low grade jute before the new crop comes to the market. This can be done, at least in part by eliminating Export Duty and E.P.C. from low grade jute. Selling low grade jute at lower than purchase price will involve a loss of significant magnitude, but incurring short term losses on commodities in the face of widely varying prices in the international market is not new and has to be faced. Excellent prices of better quality jute should more than make up for the losses incurred in the sales of low grade jute.

Massive and multi-directional efforts need to be made to solve the long-term problems of jute. We believe that such efforts are being made and we wish to volunteer the services of our Chamber in such efforts. However, one or two points need to be made mainly to provoke future discussions.

Minimum prices are fixed for the benefit of farmers. Do they benefit? I believe that the fixation of minimum price has not benefited the farmers to any significant extent. But it has bred corruption. As a corollary to this corruption, it has expanded bank credit and channelised massive credits to totally unproductive and harmful activities. While minimum price of jute has had the unplanned effect of creating hoarding capability in the hands of certain people, the banking system in order to adjust against the strain has had to impose credit squeeze on the legitimate trade and industry. Realistic appraisal of minimum price and the appraisal of administrative machinery need attention at the highest level of the government.

Conversion of raw jute to finished products--what extent of our capacity are we utilising? With the ineffectiveness of management problems of labour, power failure--what have all these done to our capability of utilising the jute mill capacities? Not only that all our efforts have to be made to improve the capacity utilisation of the existing jute mills but new capacity must be added so that we can convert more of raw jute to finished goods. Even today, after 8 years of costly experiment our entrepreneurs in jute have to stand by as frustrated observers? Do they not have a role to play, yet?

New uses of jute--scientists at home and abroad have done some excellent work in this direction. Is the government planning to give them sufficient institutional and financial support? It is known that jute can be used as wool and cotton substitute; it can also be used for railway slippers and poles. What has been done to translate such ideas into commercial success?

Jute needs all the support it can get in our Second Five-Year Plan--support from the Private Sectors.

Our country will negotiate contracts, make purchases, agree on barter deals with transnational institutions from countries with controlled economy, mixed economy and free economy. The value of these over the next five years

will run into billions of dollars. If the sellers have greater skill than buyers, then the buyers, more often than not get short-changed both in terms of quantity and quality. I bring up this point because there is general unawareness regarding the need to develop negotiating skill. Merely good intentions are not enough in negotiations of difficult contracts and purchases. Negotiation on natural resources such as gas, fishing is particularly difficult on account of long term implications. Great skill and courage are required for such negotiation. The other parties in negotiation will field their best team to get the best possible deal they can. We need the assistance over a fairly long period from institutions such as UNCTC to develop our skills in this direction.

To summarise then:

- (a) Recognition of our poverty must have impact upon our planning process in selecting priorities and appropriate technology and in decreasing dependence on others.
- (b) A thorough review of the role of Public Sector, its restructuring and its dilution is an urgent necessity.
- (c) Short and long term crises of jute need to be resolved.
- (d) To better utilise our resources, we need to develop our skills of negotiations.
- (e) The concept of making good living more expensive to reduce the cost of subsistence living needs in depth discussion and necessary implementation.

CSO: 4220

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

\$50-MILLION ACCORD WITH POLAND—Bangladesh and Poland on Saturday signed a credit agreement of 50 million US dollars at Shilpa Bhavan in Dacca reports BSS. The agreement will provide Bangladesh for financing the purchase of complete plants industrial and other equipment machinery and other capital goods from Poland. Mr T. Ktzakgn Director Ministry of Foreign Trade and Shipping Poland and Mr Hafiz Ahmed Majumder Joint Secretary External Resources Division of Bangladesh signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments. The Polish credit agreement follows negotiation between the visiting three-member Polish economic delegation led by Mr Kojak and Bangladesh officials keeping in view the need of financial assistance of the country's Second Five-Year Plan to be launched next July. The credit which would bear an interest of 3.5 percent would be repaid by Bangladesh exportables including raw jute goods, tea and nontraditional items in 12 equal installments. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 30 Mar 80 p 1]

CSO: 4220

BURMESE PEASANTS ORGANIZATION CENTRAL BODY MEETING ENDS

BK250258 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 Apr 80

[Summary] "The fourth meeting of the Peasants Organization Central Body, which continued in the conference hall in Kaba-aye, Rangoon, successfully ended at 1340 today after a closing speech by U Thaung Kyi, chairman of the Peasants Organization Central Body."

The meeting put on record the report of the Central Executive Committee and endorsed the work programs for 1980-81.

A. Organization

1. To muster the strength of the peasants through the organizational efforts of various levels of the peasants organization and to actively take part in the construction tasks of the state.
2. To organize the recruitment of new organization members.
3. To strive for further consolidation of the various levels of the organization.
4. To strive for collection of more funds for the organization in accordance with standing rules and directives as well as to correctly compile statistics concerning organization members.
5. To insure that all levels of the organization actively take part in tasks to eradicate saboteurs.

B. Education, training and information

1. To open more dissemination courses and to strive to educate the peasant masses.
2. To organize recruitment of trainees to attend agricultural courses for peasants.

C. Production and plans

1. To strive for increased agricultural production in accordance with the 1980-81 planned targets.
2. To organize short-term plans for insuring water supply for agricultural work.
3. To utilize appropriate farm machinery and implements in plowing, harvesting and leveling farmland.

D. Cooperatives and trading

1. To strive for the consolidation of existing agricultural cooperative arms.
2. To recruit individual peasants for further establishment of agricultural cooperatives.
3. To organize for the smooth operation of cooperatives producing farm implements.

E. Animal husbandry, cultivation and forestry research

1. To inform peasants about the results of research work on cultivation, animal husbandry and forestry.
2. To find ways to breed good strains of draft cattle.
3. To find ways to nurture forests.

F. Social affairs

1. To cooperate in efforts to develop education in rural areas.
2. To cooperate in tasks to successfully implement community health programs.
3. To cooperate in helping develop social welfare programs in rural areas.

G. Foreign relations

1. To carry out foreign relations work in accordance with the guidance of the Burma Socialist Program Party (BSPP).

U Thaung Kyi gave a concluding speech. In his speech, U Thaung Kyi expressed his thanks for the suggestions offered by delegates and said that the central-level, after discussions, will from time to time issue directives to accomplish work.

He said: The BSPP has laid down three political objectives for 1980 peasants day. They are:

1. To muster the strength of the peasants through organization efforts at various levels of the peasant organization and to actively take part in the construction tasks of the state.
2. To fully insure the success of 1980-81 agricultural production through the might of the peasants.
3. To insure that all the peasant masses take part in the tasks to bring and end to the saboteurs.

U Thaung Kyi continued: "The work programs for 1980-81, adopted at the current meetings are interrelated with the three political objectives laid down by the BSPP. They must be implemented. The first and third political objectives are included under the 'organization' chapter of the 1980-81 work programs. The second political objective is included under the chapter on 'production and plans' of the work programs."

He then urged the peasant organizations at various levels and their members to strive for success in the 1980-81 targets and to use the might of the peasant masses for success in the economic plans. He noted the need for active participation by the peasantry in crushing all the saboteurs with the people's might.

He also called on them to project the achievement of overfulfilling the agricultural production targets and to strive for further achievements. He noted the importance of water supply for cultivation as well as for the people and cattle, expressing satisfaction over the current mass movement for water supply in the country.

U Thaung Kyi added: "There are difficulties in expanding the full time executive committees of the township organizations at this time. It is necessary to motivate the village tract organizations to accelerate the organizational work and function of the township organizations. The party unit executive committee members, who are in charge of the township peasants organizations, are fully responsible for the peasant organizations. It will be successful if they give more attention to the work of the peasants organizations than to the other tasks."

He then dealt with land policy, saying: "At present there already are laws, rules and procedures. Hence all the existing problems could be resolved if these laws, rules, regulations and procedures were applied correctly. Work will be smooth and land problems could be resolved correctly by the village tract, township, state and division people's council if the peasants organizations at all levels assist them."

U Thaung Kyi then called on the peasants organizations at various levels to be self-sufficient financially, noting that yearly expenditures exceed

the annual dues collected from the members. He urged them to collect dues and compile statistics systematically in order to raise income.

In conclusion he thanked all those who worked for the success of the meeting. The fourth meeting of the Peasants Organization Central Body ended at 1340.

CSO: 4211

SAN YU SPEAKS TO MAGWE, MANDALAY DIVISIONAL OFFICIALS

BK251555 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Apr 80

[Text] U San Yu, general secretary of the Burma Socialist Program Party [BSPP] and State Council secretary, in the company of party Central Executive Committee member and Army Vice Chief of Staff Maj Gen Aye Ko and other officials, visited Magwe and Mandalay divisions 23-24 April and discussed political, economic and organizational matters with members of regional party committees, state and divisional people's councils, party unit committees, party cell secretariats, Lanting youth organizing committees, township peasants and workers organization executive committees, regimental organizing committees and township people's councils.

U San Yu and party returned to Rangoon from Mandalay on the morning of 25 April.

Discussing politics at the Aung San Hall of the 77th Light Infantry Regiment in Pakkoku on 23 April, party General Secretary U San Yu said: Aboveground saboteurs are resorting to whispering campaigns, making use of religion to get involved in politics and fomenting discontent among disgraced party members to create disturbances. Party members must strive to expose and get rid of whispering campaigns which can cause doubts in people's minds. Party members must be modest and humble when communicating with the people.

Military and organizational efforts must be coordinated in accordance with regional conditions in the task of eliminating insurgents. The party, councils and mass and class organizations must muster the strength of the people and concertedly carry out tasks to eliminate insurgents.

Speaking about organization, U San Yu said: There are three points to observe when carrying out general organizational tasks. They are: To work toward increasing the number of better qualified personnel; to keep a constant watch on and to supervise the work and activities of lower-level party organizations; and to organize and educate people so that they will not be cheated and will have correct ways of thinking. Administrative as well as organizational methods must be used to correct the thinking of the people and to prevent them from being cheated.

The party Central Committee headquarters has issued directives to party members to refrain from becoming involved in sects which are mixing religion with worldly affairs. Directives have also been issued to prevent youths from being recruited by such sects.

On cultural and social affairs of mass organizations, party General Secretary U San Yu said: Mass organizations must play supporting roles in building a new society today, literacy campaigns are successfully being carried out in various townships. Mass movements must continue to insure that all citizens are literate and that they will actively take part in tasks to increase production.

U San Yu said: The drug suppression campaign in our country is so successful that the world has given recognition to our efforts. The state and the party, together with the people, must eradicate narcotic drugs which can cause national atrophy.

He continued: Because of the heat in summer, it is very easy for fires to start. Therefore, we must carry out various fire prevention measures.

On economics, the party general secretary said: We have been able to keep a check on the rise of prices to a certain extent. Inflation has also been checked to a certain extent.

The role of workers is most important in efforts to increase production and bring down production costs. As work efficiency improves, production costs will come down while more goods will be produced. Only then will the economic situation and the living standards of the people improve.

Only by increasing meat and fish production can we contribute toward bringing down prices. Therefore, livestock breeding on a manageable scale must be carried out throughout the country.

Speaking in terms of quantity, U San Yu said, the number of cooperatives established in the country is very encouraging. However, the number of consumer cooperatives are more while there are only a few producers cooperatives. Efforts must be made to insure low-cost production. Scientific production methods must also be applied.

It is very encouraging to witness the efforts undertaken on a self-help basis to insure the availability of potable water and water for draft animals and agriculture as well as the mass movements to overcome natural calamities. The state is striving to solve the potable water problem. It is essential to give suggestions on effective methods which will suit regional conditions.

U San Yu said: We must never forget the vital role of the working people in implementing economic plans. I wish to urge state, mass and class organizations to make collective efforts for the success of economic plans.

On 24 April, U San Yu met members of the state and divisional people's councils at the conference hall of the Northwest Military Command in Mandalay. He explained the structure and rights and responsibilities of various levels of people's councils, and election methods of people's councils.

U San Yu then said: People's councils must accept the leadership of the party. The BSPP is the sole party of the country and it leads the state. This has clearly been stated in the state constitution. The law of the people's councils also stipulates the rights and responsibilities of various levels of people's councils and executive committees. However, when working under the leadership of the party, it is essential to work correctly. When carrying out their tasks, people's councils at various levels must abide by the policy and general guidelines of the party organization concerned. When doing so, people's councils need not describe in detail every aspect of their work, but must work within the framework of their rights and responsibilities.

On coordination between people's councils at various levels and departments, State Council Secretary U San Yu said: In the same way as the people's councils at various levels coordinate their work, so they must also coordinate their work with regional officials of departments. The state constitution prescribes the way the people's councils must guide, supervise, coordinate and solve personnel problems of departments. People's council representatives must be open and aboveboard and friendly when communicating with departmental officials.

Later, the State Council secretary explained in detail matters concerning economy, social, legal, judicial and inspection. He then replied to the questions raised by the state and divisional council chairmen.

In conclusion, General Secretary U San Yu said: The BSPP will never give up its responsibilities and its tasks to build a just and prosperous society. It will keep a constant watch on the interests of the people. The task of building a just and prosperous society, which the people want, must be carried out with the might of the people.

We already have strong factors with which to accomplish this. They are: That the Burma socialist program exists as a program reflecting the genuine interests of the people; that the BSPP has been accepted as the sole leading party of the state in accordance with the state constitution; that there is a guiding ideology accepted unanimously by all party members; and that the party and the state, the party and the mass and class organizations and the people are united and form a composite part of each other. All of these factors exist as the strength of the BSPP, the state and the people. Therefore, we must gain the respect and cooperation of the people and work collectively, keen-sightedly, confidently, perseveringly and with conviction for the success of the great task to build a new society.

BRIEFS

MANAGEMENT BLAMED FOR SHORTCOMINGS--A coordination meeting to review cooperative work for the fourth quarter of the 1979-80 fiscal year was held at the cooperatives hall on Kaba-aye Hill, Rangoon, on 29 and 30 April. Addressing the meeting, Cooperatives Minister Col Sein Tun said: Despite the people's reliance on cooperatives, one of the main reasons why the success attained by cooperatives is below expectations--particularly the slow pace in establishing producers cooperatives, the disorderliness of cooperatives work and the presence of criminal cases in the cooperatives sector--is because of management weakness. Lack of data in drafting cooperative plans, prescribing targets on the basis of subjectivism and working individually on a person-to-person basis by disregarding economic laws are factors which weaken management, Col Sein Tun said. The minister also identified as a shortcoming the losing sight of cooperative objectives and goals. Col Sein Tun also said that there are many cases of cooperatives losing sight of the right method of working; he cited as examples cooperatives wanting to stockpile consumer goods needed by the working people to sell and distribute them later, and producers cooperatives, in an effort to boost their image, thinking only about profit and not about the cooperative members. [Excerpts] [BK301610 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 30 Apr 80]

CSO: 4211

RESIGNATIONS REDUCE NAGALAND GOVERNMENT TO MINORITY

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 30 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] Kohima, March 29.--The Vizol Ministry in Nagaland was reduced to a minority following the resignation of four Ministers of State and six legislators from the ruling United Democratic Front today, reports UNI.

With these 10 resignations, the Ministry now has a strength of 25 in the 60-member State Assembly.

The Governor, Mr L.P. Singh, accepted the resignations of the four Ministers of State. The Chief Minister, Mr Vizol, will look after their portfolios.

The four Ministers of State who resigned from the ruling party joined the recently-formed UDF Progressive Group, adds PTI.

The members of this group claimed that the six legislators who had also resigned had joined them.

The Chief Minister, who confirmed the resignation by the four Ministers of State, however, maintained that he still enjoyed a majority in the Assembly. Mr Vizol told reporters that none of legislators had resigned.

In a signed joint statement, four of the legislators whose names figured in the list denied having resigned from the party.

The statement said the list was "issued by some interested party." The legislators--Mr Imchalamba, Mr Manlem, Mr Phwang and Mr Horanse--said they continued to be in the UDF.

The nearly two-and-a-half year old UDF Ministry, headed by Mr Vizol, after winning the Rajya Sabha biennial elections, suffered a dent early this week when three of the party legislators resigned and joined four others who had been expelled for fielding a "rebel" candidate for the Rajya Sabha. They formed the UDF Progressive Group.

The UDF till recently had a strength of 42 in the House. One seat is vacant.

Meanwhile, amidst claims and denials about resignations, the UDF Central Executive requested Mr Vizol to recommend to the Governor immediate dissolution of the Assembly and a mid-term poll.

The executive met to discuss the latest political situation in the State at the residence of the Chief Minister this morning.

The party's vice-president, Mr Yeshito Zhimomi, in the letter to the Chief Minister, said "a sharp lesson should be taught to all defectors and the only way to do this is to force them to face their respective electorates by having the Assembly dissolved and calling for a mid-term poll."

A United Legislature Party of Nagaland, with legislators from the UDF Progressive Group, the Nagaland Congress(I) and the National Convention of Nagaland, was formed at a joint meeting of the parties here today.

Mr S.C. Jamir, former Deputy Chief Minister, was unanimously elected leader of the newly-formed party.

Mr T.A. Ngullie, leader of the Congress(I) in the Assembly, said that the meeting, which was attended by an independent member of the family had endorsed this formation.

Claiming that the ULP had a strength of 31 members, he said the list of members would be submitted to the Governor. At present, there were 30 signatories to the resolution on the formation of the ULP, he added.

CSO: 4220

KERALA URGED TO STEP UP DECENTRALIZATION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Mar 80 p 8

[Article by K.C. John: "Delegating Power to Kerala Panchayats"]

[Text] Trivandrum: The Nayanar ministry appears to be keen on decentralizing as much of the administration as possible by delegating authority to the district councils and the panchayats.

The panchayat elections, after nearly twenty years, were held last October. The district council elections are scheduled to be held towards the end of the year after the district administration bill, passed by the last legislature, is cleared by New Delhi.

Recently the Centre for Development Studies here hosted an informal discussion by politicians, planners, administrators and academicians to focus attention on the need for rapid and effective decentralisation of the administration. The participants agreed that it is essential to take development to the people and make it a "people's movement." Administrative convenience should not be the only aim of administrative decentralisation. Its main purpose is to generate income and employment among the people as a whole, more especially among the weaker sections of society.

The Marxist leader, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, endorsed the approach of the Centre to decentralised development planning. He and the Centre agreed on the vital need for the people to participate not only in the implementation of the plan but also in formulating it.

Mr Namboodiripad said that the Kerala plan, as part of the national plan, necessarily reflected the advantages and weaknesses of the latter. The Kerala plan "does not and cannot stand in splendid isolation."

The participants exchanged notes on technological possibilities in the rational utilisation of land, water and forestry through decentralised planning. For example, much of the development expenditure in Kerala has been incurred on major power and irrigation projects and social services.

While health services and education have benefited most of the people, the industrial infrastructure now available has not yielded optimum social returns.

Change Needed

For, the absence of effective local authority has throttled initiatives in embarking on minor programmes of development, a change in the planning and administrative tradition is thus called for. Unless this is accomplished, the schemes of water management already implemented in Kerala at tremendous cost will not produce the best results. Irrigation water in the state, for instance, is so far meant mainly for paddy. The need to push up the output of nonpaddy crops, which account for 70 percent of the total area under cultivation, is thus largely neglected. Even coconut, almost a monopoly crop, gets little benefit from the existing irrigation facilities.

The Kuttiadi irrigation project is a major scheme but its sole purpose is to help raise a summer crop. Ironically, even that limited goal cannot be achieved as the farmers find that the effort is not worth the candle. A major constraint in securing adequate returns is the absence of salutary land development and water management practices. The Centre of Development Studies discovered that once these techniques were employed in a selected area, the yield went up from 2.5 tonnes to five tonnes per hectare.

A shift from major projects (although they should not be abandoned midway) to minor irrigation schemes by exploiting both surface and ground water would be of immense benefit to the farmers in Kerala. The farmers could also think in terms of raising alternate summer crops like pulses instead of concentrating only on paddy. Pulses have higher commercial value and they require less water.

Likewise, two-thirds of the power available in Kerala is high-voltage and it is consumed by a few large industrial enterprises in the Alwaye-Cochin belt. The small industries consume just eight percent of the low-voltage power. Not surprisingly, Kerala's energy policy has not generated adequate employment through industrialisation and agricultural development. The electricity board is exporting more than 40 percent of the power produced in the state. A mere three percent is utilised for irrigation.

The northern parts of Kerala are still starved of power. But the authorities appear to be obsessed with the idea of increasing production without planning to distribute it where it is needed. A strong public opinion has to be created to shift the attention to proper transmission and distribution of the available energy resources.

Students' Role

During the discussions the example of Karnataka was cited to emphasise the importance of involving students in planning. The students in Karnataka have identified a number of sites for putting up micro hydel stations in the course of their normal studies.

The use of bio-gas for households has been strongly recommended. Community forestry, it was felt, should be the integral part of a policy of using bio-gas for households. Here, too, local-level planning and mobilisation could prevent indiscriminate felling of trees for firewood. The possibilities of planting appropriate tree species to check soil and sea erosion could also be explored by the local authorities.

The participants in the discussion felt that the Kerala government should straightway delegate more powers to panchayats instead of waiting for the enactment of the district administration bill.

They felt that every panchayat should be given immediately Rs. 10,000 to formulate and implement development schemes to meet local requirements. The panchayats are now empowered to collect a few taxes. But the money at their disposal is far from adequate to meet their needs.

Besides, a "horizontal" coordination of the activities of the various departments would help improve the work of panchayats. The executive official of a panchayat is now responsible to his bosses in the state secretariat and not to the elected president of the panchayat.

The role of the bureaucracy becomes very relevant in the context of the political and academic urge to decentralise planning. By and large, the bureaucratic apparatus is known to be unresponsive to popular desires for getting a move on. Its built-in inertia is either an irritant or a bottleneck in the very process of decentralisation. Unless the bureaucracy is firmly handled, the programme of decentralisation may run into difficulties.

CSO: 4220

RAM SUPPORTERS MEET IN 'ALL-INDIA' JANATA CONVENTION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 29 (PTI & UNI) Supporters of Mr Jagjivan Ram meeting here today in what was claimed to be an "all-India convention of Janata party" are seeking a return to "real Congress culture."

A resolution on political situation, introduced on the opening day of the two-day convention, presented this culture as a third alternative to the apparent choice between "ineffectualism and authoritarianism."

The resolution invited a "large number of political workers cutting across the political party spectrum who share that heritage" to join forces together.

This, it added, would provide "a viable alternative to dangers of authoritarian and undemocratic tendencies, communal and caste politics, ideological passivity or ideologies alien to India's cherished ideals."

Earlier, in his opening remarks to the convention, Mr Jagjivan Ram said he would not commit the sin of breaking the Janata party.

2 MPs Present

Mr Jagjivan Ram, who dissociated himself from the leadership of the Janata party on the Janata-RSS dual membership issue, is expected to be elected president of "Janata party" by the convention tomorrow.

Organisers of the convention claimed that more than 2,500 delegates from all over the country were attending the convention, but only one fourth of the main pandal erected at Perozeshah Kotla grounds was occupied.

Although invitations had been sent to all non-Jana Sangh members of Parliament, only two MPs, Mr Ganpat Bhagat and Mr Satya Dev Singh, were seen at the convention.

The Janata party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar, and other officebearers of the party were not invited.

Mr Jagjivan Ram will again address the concluding session of the convention tomorrow evening after a two-hour session of what is claimed to be "Yuv Janata," the youth wing of the party.

The political resolution saw the move to expel "communal and other reactionary elements" as an exercise in self-purification even if it meant narrowing the base of the party.

The assembly elections would provide the first test for the "effective alternative" being put before the people by the convention, it said.

Resolutions on economic situation, law and order, international situation and on the passing away of Mr Jayaprakash Narayan were also introduced at the convention.

The one on economic situation calls for a more vigorous drive to curb price rise and new measures, "which are economic and not mere cover for political consolidation of those in power."

The resolution on law and order authorises Mr Jagjivan Ram to call a national meet of all political parties to work out effective programmes to tackle national problems and bring about lasting peace and security.

Expressing apprehensions over the setback to the process of detente in the world, the resolution on international situation demands withdrawal of all foreign personnel and provocative elements from Afghanistan.

Split in Parties

It asks government of India to mobilise world public opinion, especially the nonaligned movement to achieve the objective.

In international affairs the resolution would have the convention pledge itself to the policy of nonalignment.

The resolution on Mr Jayaprakash Narayan pledges to work for the fulfillment of his "vision of a classless and casteless society, free from hunger and exploitation and based on principles of freedom, equality and brotherhood."

Although Mr Jagjivan Ram had dissociated with what he called the "ad hoc" Janata party led by Mr Chandra Shekhar, he and his supporters had decided neither to leave the Janata party nor form a new party but to stay in it to rejuvenate and revitalise it, he said.

Describing as critical and discouraging the recent trend in the Indian politics of disintegration of major political parties, like the Janata, the Lok Dal, the Congress (U), Mr Jagjivan Ram said that this might prove as "blessing in disguise" and might lead to a much-needed polarisation of political forces.

"To create a new building, old building has to be demolished and sometimes, foundation of old building has to be removed to raise a strong new edifice," he said.

Mr Jagjivan Ram said that polarisation of political forces, having common policies, programmes and ideology was the crying need of the time.

Referring to the dual membership issue, which had plagued the Janata party for a long time and had caused a split before and was threatening another one, he said that in his view the Jana Sangh and the RSS were inseparable. Those who thought they would break would have to wait for years.

Maintaining that only a complete delinking of the Jana Sangh with the RSS could solve the problem, he said that the formula evolved by the Janata party central parliamentary board and the latest one put forward by Mr Ram Jethmalani were unsatisfactory and were not acceptable.

CSO: 4220

NORTHEAST SEEN IN TREND TO JOIN ASSAM AGITATION

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Mar 80 p 2

[Text] It is perhaps natural that after the failure of the New Delhi talks on the Assam tangle the students should resume their agitation. Another disturbing trend is that almost all the States and Union Territories of the North-Eastern region have started 'joining' the agitation.

Assam has subjected the entire N-E region to untold hardship. Apart from oil tankers, trucks carrying essential commodities were not allowed to leave Assam for the neighbouring States.

Now that the Assam tangle is unlikely to be solved in the foreseeable future, there is no alternative for the N-E States but to join the anti-"foreigners" agitation so that Assam lifts the economic blockade. Not that the other N-E States and Union Territories are free from the "domination and exploitation by foreigners." In fact several of these States have been trying to ward off the "foreigners" through other means.

For instance, there is the Inner Line Permit system in Nagaland. Recently the Chief Minister, Of Mizoram announced that his State would also introduce this system.

Under this system, no foreigner and Indian from any other State can enter the State without a written permission from the State Government. Nor can the outsiders stay a day longer than the specified period.

In Nagaland, a Constitutional provision prevents outsiders from purchasing land within the State. However, in the absence of an organised movement like the one in Assam, the outsiders have been entering through the backdoor, with the connivance of the corrupt bureaucrats and policemen.

All the tribals of this region have joined hands under the banner, "The N-E Hill Regional Parties Forum." The main objective of the Forum is "combined agitation throughout the region to root out foreigners."

They contend that at least 10 million "foreigners" have infiltrated to the N-E region since Independence. The tribals feel that they are being "fleeced by these foreigners."

Taking advantage of the low rate of literacy among the local people, the outsiders have grabbed the bulk of the white-collar jobs, causing much resentment among the educated unemployed youths.

In Meghalaya, the Khasi Students' Union and the Forum have been spearheading various agitations.

In the past, the Meghalaya Assembly had passed several Bills envisaging the checking of the unbridled influx of outsiders. But the Centre has been reluctant to give assent as the Bills made no discrimination between Indians from other States and bonafide foreigners.

The "Khasi Liberation Army" an underground group, is suspected to be the force behind the spate of violent incidents which have taken a toll of several lives in the recent past. The atmosphere in Meghalaya is tense.

It has become increasingly clear that Mr Laldenga, the once unquestioned leader of the Mizo rebels, is already a spent force. While he is waiting for a dialogue with the Centre for a peaceful settlement of the Mizo problem, the rebels, through their continued violent activities, have made it known, in no uncertain terms, that they have nothing to do with Mr Laldenga and his attempts for a negotiated settlement.

Now the "special force" of the Mizo National Front has started a systematic elimination of the non-Mizos. Brig. T. Sailo, Mizoram's Chief Minister, is in a difficult position.

The All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU) has started agitating against the "foreigners." The agitation, which was characterised in the beginning by a few demonstrations, has now gathered momentum, with support from people of all walks of life.

As all educational institutions are closed Manipuri students in Assam have come back while those in other States are "forced" to leave the hostels simply because they come from Manipur.

Mr R.K. Dorendra Singh, Manipur's Chief Minister, is much concerned over the situation. It is therefore no wonder that his Government is frantically trying to inculcate a sense of belonging among the people of Manipur.

In a recent interview he said, "Priority in employment will be given to the sons-of-the-soil. All deputed officers will be sent back as soon as their period of contract is over. Because I personally feel that the root-cause of insurgency is frustration generated by unemployment."

SOLUTION TO JAMMU AND KASHMIR IMBALANCES URGED

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Mar 80 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] The question of regional imbalances in Jammu and Kashmir has been looming large for over a decade now and, early last year, Jammu and several other neighbouring towns were rocked by serious disturbances over the issue. On occasions, the riots that broke out assumed communal overtones and the Chief Minister ultimately agreed to appoint a three-member Commission under the chairmanship of Mr S.M. Sikri, a former Chief Justice of India, to study the whole problem in depth. A similar Commission headed by Mr Gajendragadkar, again a former Chief Justice, had covered almost the same ground in 1968, but very little was done to give concrete shape to many of its useful suggestions to bring the three regions--Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh--close to one another. Sheikh Abdullah and Dr Karan Singh, who is now spearheading the movement for giving Jammu its due, have been hurling charges against each other and there was a time when the Chief Minister accused the latter of fomenting trouble mainly to serve his political ends. And now Dr Karan Singh has countercharged that the Chief Minister did not approach the problems caused by imbalances with sympathy and understanding, and "made matters worse by his tactless and authoritarian handling of the whole problem." It is of course for the Sikri Commission to go into these and other allegations. But what seems to be important is for the Commission to speed up its enquiry in a businesslike manner and present its report without further delay.

The Gajendragadkar Commission had expressed the view that even if all the matters agitating the minds of the people of the State were equitably settled, there would still be a measure of discontent "unless the political aspirations of the different regions were satisfied." That indeed is the crux of the problem for it is a feeling of political neglect and discrimination, more than anything else, that certain regions of the State are suffering from, which is the main cause of irritation and tension. Dr Karan Singh, has now suggested the Andhra type arrangement envisaging a separate consultative machinery for each region in the State to correct the imbalances. But it is common knowledge that this arrangement has been far from effective

with the result that the grievances nurtured by one region against the other continue to remain as strong as ever. The Telegana Regional Committee set up under Article 371 has not proved an effective instrument to meet the aspirations of the people of the region. Nor did regional committees such as those which existed for the Punjabi-speaking and the Hindi-speaking areas of the former Punjab State fare any better; the arrangement could not prevent the eventual bifurcation of the Punjab State.

It would be an unhealthy step to create a sub-federal system in the highly sensitive border State of Jammu and Kashmir of the kind envisaged by Dr Karan Singh, under which members of the State Assembly elected from Jammu would sit separately as a regional council with legislative competence in matters directly affecting the people of the area. This is virtually asking for a vivisection of the State--a demand which will have to be resisted. But what can be done is to establish reasonable conventions such as equitable representation in the Cabinet for the two regions. Far more important is the need to formulate realistic plans and programmes that meet the actual economic requirements of all sections and regions and implement them with vigour and efficiency - instead of employment demagoguery, as is now the frequent practice.

CSO: 4220

INDO-SOVIET BID TO EXPORT TO THIRD WORLD

Calcutta ENGINEERING TIMES in English 25 Feb & 6 Mar 80 pp 1, 5

[Text] "A possibility of increasing exports to third world countries of the machine building industry's products is not excluded and, what is important from those projects, which were built in India with the assistance of the Soviet Union," said Mr I V Arkhipov Soviet Deputy Prime Minister in New Delhi recently.

"We stand for a reduction and not the expansion of armaments. We stand for rapprochement and understanding between peoples and not for artificial alienation and enmity," he added while inaugurating a seminar on "Peace, Security and Development" organized by the Indo-Soviet cultural society in New Delhi.

He said the Soviet Union was opposed to the doctrine of military hysteria and frenzied arms race.

He said his country highly valued India's contribution to the cause of peace and international security. "The relations between our countries," he said "are not based on any kind of transient factors but on the firm foundation of the long-term vital interests of our peoples and states, on our common concern for ensuring peace."

Mr Arkhipov dwelt at length on the long-term programme of economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation signed between the two countries on March 1979. "No doubt," he said, "new common interests will emerge, new forms of collaboration in various spheres of economy, trade, science and technology will develop in the process."

ISCUS Vice President, Mr Syed Mir Qasim who presided over the seminar, said the Soviet Union had proved India's most abiding friend."

"Whenever we were in trouble, whenever we found ourselves isolated, the Soviet Union stood by us.

India, Syed Mir Qasim said "would have become dependent on imperialist powers if the Soviet Union had not stepped forward and offered us aid for our development programmes."

BHILAI CELEBRATES INDO-SOVIET COOPERATION

Calcutta **ENGINEERING TIMES** in English 25 Feb & 6 Mar 80 pp 1, 5

[Text] The Silver Jubilee of Indo-Soviet techno-economic collaboration was celebrated at a gay function in Bhilai recently.

Among the high dignitaries who joined Bhilai in the celebration were Mr Iyon V. Arkhipov, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Mr N V Goldin, USSR Minister for Heavy Industry, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Union Minister for Steel and Mines, Mr I K Gujral, Indian Ambassador in Moscow, Mr Vornontsov, Soviet Ambassador to India and other Soviet delegates.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Arkhipov, congratulated the Government and people of India and said, "Soviet-Indian economic cooperation, initiated by the construction of the first stage of the Bhilai Steel Plant, has been developed and strengthened within this period. Now, 25 years later, this cooperation embraces more than 70 industrial and other projects built or being built in India by joint efforts of our countries.

Flagship

"Today, as we mark this significant milestone, all of us are witnessing the great achievements of the staff of the Bhilai Steel Plant, which has become a flagship of ferrous metallurgy in India. The course of the construction and exploitation of the Bhilai Steel Plant shows how big and complicated a work has been done by Indian specialists and workers during this period."

The Soviet Deputy Premier said, "It is well-known that ferrous metallurgy is one of the most important branches promoting the development of national economy on all independent self-sufficient basis. India has rich deposits of high-quality iron ore as well as other raw materials for metallurgical industry. But the most important thing is that India has highly qualified specialists and workers who have acquired the skills of producing iron and steel, who can handle most sophisticated up-to-date machinery."

Mr Arkhipov said, "We feel great satisfaction that Soviet specialists, who work shoulder to shoulder with their Indian colleagues, take part in designing, constructing and in manning the Bhilai Steel Plant and other projects

of Soviet-Indian cooperation. One can say that one of the major components of the steel smelters in Bhilai and Bokaro is the ardour of our hearts, the warmth of our friendship and our firm determination to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our countries to the benefit of our peoples and in the name of peace in the world."

Road to Self-Sufficiency

Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Union Minister for Steel & Mines said that since those beginnings a quarter of a century ago, India had travelled far on the road to self-sufficiency in steel, which was dotted with several landmarks of sustained and evergrowing cooperation with the Soviet Steel Industry. "Our integrated steel plants presently have a total installed capacity of 11.4 million ingot tonnes and of this, 5.0 million tonnes is accounted for by Bhilai and Bokaro, both Soviet-aided projects. When their current expansions are over, the share of these plants in the total installed capacity of 14.4 million tonnes of steel ingots would go up to over 55 percent," he said.

The Steel Minister said, "the most distinguishing feature of Indo-Soviet cooperation is the spirit of fraternal cooperation in which the Russian engineers and technicians have worked and continue to work with their Indian counterparts, braving the trying Indian weather, the heat and the dust-storms, to which they are not used in their own country, with a smile on their face and goodwill in their heart. Right from the day in June 1955, when seven brave Russians and two Indian pioneers set up a camp office at Bhilai, an atmosphere of cooperation, cordiality and mutual respect was created which continues to permeate Bhilai till today and has been extended in the same measure to Bokaro."

Mr Mukherjee said, "the problem of training operating personnel was even more challenging. More than the machinery and equipment and processes, it is the men--the engineers, the technicians and the skilled workmen--behind them who constitute the flesh and blood of a steel plant. It was important that the men to operate and run the plant to achieve the guaranteed level of production and to maintain it in a healthy conditions should be properly and adequately trained and it must be said to the lasting credit of our Russian friends that they did a thorough job of training a large number of Indians in a short period upto 1961, over 700 young engineers and technicians were received in USSR for training."

Corner-stone

Speaking of Indo-Soviet cooperation, the Steel Minister said, "Trade is the corner-stone of economic cooperation between the two countries. Over the years, there has been a significant growth in the volume and pattern of this trade which has gone up from Rs. 755 crores in the year 1975 to an estimated Rs. 1600 crores in 1979. According to the Trade Plant provision for 1980, it is expected to rise to Rs. 1900 crores. Today, USSR is India's third biggest trading partner in the world and the second best customer of

our products. USSR accounts for 60% of our trade with East Europe and 10-11% of our global trade."

Mr N V Goldin recalled the days when he was working in Bhilai and said that he was greatly impressed by the progress achieved by Bhilai. He was particularly impressed by the Indians' devotion to work and their friendship with their Soviet colleagues.

Mr I K Gujral, Indian Ambassador in Moscow, said that industrial cities like Bhilai and Bokaro were the new pilgrim centres of the country, where the foundation for future India, was being laid.

Referring to Bhilai's good performance in the field of production, Mr Gujral said Bhilai has enabled the country to hold her head high, it has enhanced her stature.

Tableaux by different units of the Plant were taken out on the occasion. The mass rally concluded with a thunderous display of fireworks.

A delightful cultural programme was presented at the Russian Complex in Sector-VII jointly by the Indian and Soviet residents of the steel city.

On Feb 24, Mr Arkhipov inaugurated a Jubilee Park in Sector VI to commemorate the Silver Jubilee celebration of Indo-Soviet Cooperation.

CSO: 4220

SOVIET DIPLOMAT PAYS VISIT TO CPI(M) LEADER

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Mar 80 p 3

[Text] During a recent meeting with the CPI(M) leader, Mr Promode Dasgupta in Calcutta a Soviet diplomat, Mr Victor P. Yakunin praised Mrs Indira Gandhi's role in international affairs. The CPI(M) leader told him in reply that this did not make her "a progressive."

When Mr Yakunin said that Mr Charan Singh had made anti-Soviet remarks with regard to the Afghanistan issue, Mr Dasgupta pointed out that he was only a caretaker Prime Minister.

The CPI(M) leader said that whoever was the Prime Minister of India, he or she had no option but to befriend the Soviet Union, especially if the USA supplied arms to Pakistan. He told reporters on Friday that any developing country would have to lean either towards the USA or the Soviet Union. He thought the Indian bourgeoisie was "clever and mature enough" to make use of both the super Powers. He did not think India would be a "satellite" of either of them. The Indian bourgeoisie would not take that position, he added.

Mr Dasgupta said the Soviet diplomat was interested in the present relationship between the CPI and the CPI(M). The CPI(M) leader told him that the relations were improving and the two parties were participating in joint movements. This was the first visit by a Soviet diplomat to the CPI(M) office since the undivided Communist Party split in 1964.

At its plenum, the CPI(M) had described the Soviet Communist Party as "revisionist." In recent months, however, the CPI(M) and CPI have taken a similar stand with regard to the Vietnam and Afghanistan developments. The Soviet Communist Party has also stopped referring to the CPI(M) as a "parallel Communist Party and now calls it by its full name.

With regard to China, the CPI(M) leader told the Soviet diplomat that the proceedings of the plenary session of the Chinese Communist Party had made it clear that it had changed. For the first time, the Chinese did not refer to the Soviet Union as "social imperialists." Their policy of "four modernizations" made it essential for them to alter the policy which had been pursued so long by Mao Zedong.

The CPI leader, Mr Biswanath Mukherjee, said that if the CPI and the CPI(M) were to come together, they would do so on their own. They did not need any other party to campaign for them. He said a merger was not important at present. What was important were joint movements because the people would not have any faith in the Left and democratic forces if the two Communist Parties did not work together.

Mr Mukherjee said that neither party was "in a hurry" regarding a merger. There were still ideological and political differences which would have to be removed.

CSO: 4220

SOVIET DELEGATE ADDRESSES INDIAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

New Delhi THE PATRIOT in English 29 Mar 80 p 10

[Text]

The presence of a Soviet women's committee delegation in Delhi was an expression of the Soviet women's contribution towards the continuous development of Indo-Soviet relations and consolidation of the friendship between the peoples of the two countries, said Mrs Nina Krylova, leader of the Soviet fraternal delegation to All India Women's Conference annual session, which was held earlier in the week.

The provision of full political and socio-economic rights of women had been formalised in the new constitution of USSR, adopted by the session of the Supreme Soviet, in October 1977, explained Mrs Krylova, a doctor and teacher of medicine at Patric Lumumba Peace and Friendship University, Moscow, in her speech at AIWC.

Later, speaking at a reception, given in their honour by Nation-

al Federation of Indian Women, in the Capital on Friday, Mrs Krylova said the women had as much important role to play in the development of a nation, as the men.

Mrs Krylova and her fellow delegate, Miss Flora Abdrakhmanova, said it was their first visit to India and they had been touched by Indian friendliness and hospitality.

Describing her childhood experience of the fascist blockade of Leningrad in 1941 to starve the city, Dr Krylova said, the ghastly sight of injured and starving people made her determine to 'teach or treat'.

She looked back with pride and satisfaction that her childhood determination was not just a prank, Dr Krylova said.

She expressed the hope that the friendship of women of the two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

FURTHER AID FOR SCHEDULED CASTES, TRIBES PLANNED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Mar 80 p 10

[Text] New Delhi, March 28. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) proposes to start during the sixth plan a Rs. 1-crore project for socioeconomic welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The details of the project are currently being finalised in consultation with the planning commission and the ministry of finance.

The existing measure for economic emancipation of these castes, including job reservations, benefit only a small section of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, it is felt. The vast masses living in rural, backward and neglected areas continue to live in squalor as they have only limited opportunities for improving their socioeconomic status.

The main objective of the new scheme is to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes through the introduction of science and technology to modernise the rural vocations in which these people are engaged. Sixteen centres are planned to be established under the project during the current plan.

Several Proposals

This project will be in addition to the seven new schemes already sanctioned by the ICAR for launching operational research projects and training programmes for the socioeconomic upliftment of tribal people in the current plan. These include schemes for the tribal areas of Kinwat tehsil of Nanded district and Sironcha tehsil of Chandrapur district in Maharashtra, Dang and Sabarkantha districts of Gujarat, Banawara district of Rajasthan, Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh and Koraput district of Orissa.

In Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, attempts will be made to raise the income level by introducing new farming systems. In Melghat tehsil of Maharashtra's Amravati district, the emphasis will be on the improvement of horticultural potential of tribal areas.

Besides, several proposals have been received by the ICAR from agricultural universities and research institutes for initiating tribal welfare projects.

Some of these, which are now being processed and are likely to be sanctioned soon, include a scheme for crop improvement as a research support for tribal development programmes at Phulbani and Keonjhar in Orissa, a scheme for the intensification of research on upland rice and Marua (ragi) in the tribal areas of Bihar, establishment of agricultural research station in tribal areas of Dantiwada and Kanta in Paster district of Madhya Pradesh, and an operational research project for socioeconomic welfare of tribals in Amrigadh and Danta in Banaskantha district of Gujarat.

The coordinating unit of the tribal area research project, established recently in Amravati in Maharashtra, has been further strengthened with a view to increasing its efficiency as a supervisory, guiding and coordinating body. Measures are also being taken to develop a cadre of technical manpower to man various developmental programmes in the backward, neglected and tribal areas. About 3,000 fellowships at the undergraduate level, 2,100 fellowships at the M.Sc. level and 1,350 at the Ph.D. level have been provided for this purpose under the scheme for human resource development.

CSO: 4220

MINISTER CONFIRMS MIZO REBELS GETTING FOREIGN ARMS

New Delhi THE PATRIOT in English 29 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] Minister of State for Home Yogendra Makwana confirmed in the Lok Sabha on Friday that Mizo rebels were "getting aid from neighbouring countries."

Replying to questions during a call attention motion, he said that the Government of India has urged Bangladesh and Burma not to entertain underground Mizos.

He said all steps were being taken to check the underground action.

Mr Makwana told Mr Vikram Chand Mahajan in reply to a question 'doors are open for talks' with the underground.

Mr Janardhan Poojari read out two reports from PATRIOT which spoke about involvement of some external forces and asked if there was any foreign hand behind the underground movement.

Mr Makwana said the underground were getting 'aid from neighbouring countries.'

Mr Makwana informed that the Mizoram Union Territory Administration has taken steps to further tighten security measures to deal with increasing violence in the area.

Mr Makwana earlier said that consequent on the issue of a "quit Mizoram" notice by the MNF underground in June last year, there has been spurt in the incidence of violence in Mizoram.

Taking into consideration the recrudescence of violent activities in the Union Territory and the need to maintain peace and order, operations by security forces, which were suspended earlier, were resumed, the Minister added.

UNION GOVERNMENT ORDERS CLOSURE OF SPECIAL COURTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 28 (UNI). The Union Government has ordered the winding up of the two special courts here from March 31.

This has been stated by the law ministry in a communication to the registrar of the special courts.

The communication received by the registrar says: "Establishment of special courts one and two be wound up from March 31."

The special courts were constituted in May last year under the special courts act, 1979. Mr Justice M.S. Joshi and Mr Justice M.L. Jain of the Delhi high court were appointed as judges of the special courts on May 31.

Following instructions from the Union home ministry to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on June 4, four cases were filed in the special courts.

These were the jeep scandal case involving Mrs Indira Gandhi, the case relating to four officers of the Union industries ministry who had sought to collect information on Mauriti affairs in answer to a question in Parliament, the Bhimsen Sachar detention case, and the posters case relating to the former Union information minister Mr V.C. Shukla, who was charged with getting election posters designed by artists of the directorate of advertising and visual publicity.

On February 14 this year, Mr Justice M.S. Joshi had held that the special court number one over which he was presiding was illegal and void. He promised this order while upholding the objections raised by three of Mrs Indira Gandhi's accused in the jeep scandal case about the establishment of the court and its jurisdiction to try the case. He had directed the case to be sent back to the court of the special judge, Mr D.C. Aggarwal.

Mr Justice Jain also made a similar pronouncement on January 15.

GOVERNMENT CONCERNED OVER PROBLEMS OF OVERSEAS WORKERS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Mar 80 p 9

NEW DELHI, March 27.—Concerned over the complaints about working conditions Indians employed abroad have to put up with, specially in the Gulf countries, the Centre is considering several measures, like the setting up of a centralized overseas recruitment agency or a Special cell to oversee the employment of Indians in the Gulf region.

Ever since the Supreme Court ruled last June that the Labour Ministry could not, under the existing Emigration Act, regulate the employment of Indians abroad, there has been a virtual free-for-all. The Government has not been able to keep its promise to the court to amend the rules and frame proper guidelines.

Several successive Ministers and officials have in the past few years visited the Gulf countries. After each visit, some promise or the other was made, but little was done. However, the possibility of a large number of Indians returning from the UAE, because of the new stringent laws on employment there, has necessitated urgent Government action.

It is thus on the cards that the promised amendment of the Emigration Act would be made soon and a proper machinery evolved to ensure that those recruited abroad get a fair deal and those who are not sufficiently qualified do not get to the sheikdoms and later bring the country to disrepute.

Ever since the oil boom and the consequent demand for skilled and unskilled workers, with the lure of big salaries, there has been a clamour for jobs in the Gulf countries. Many have been known to sell their assets, and pawn the family jewellery in the hope of getting rich quick.

The potential emigrant is usually eyed by the recruiting agency as the man who is going to strike gold by the recruiting agent and

indeed by anyone in officialdom who has anything to do with his leaving the country. So the process of "milking" starts and the emigrant often pays without grumbling.

While the pay offered is attractive, the terms and conditions of service and living conditions have not always been satisfactory. Those not highly educated have been the worst to suffer. Despatching totally unqualified people, charging exorbitant fees from recruits and sending them abroad for non-existent jobs were some of the many ills, until the Government in 1976 decided to intervene. It was then decided that the Ministry of Labour should coordinate the process of Indians going abroad for work. It had also been decided that the Emigration Act would be amended to provide for the registration and licensing of recruiting agents and for facilitating other measures.

A total of 735 recruiting agencies, including 10 State Government public sector agencies registered with the Labour Ministry.

Later, when some aggrieved parties who had been denied recruiting facilities by the Government went appealed to the Supreme Court, it was ruled that unless the regulations under the Emigration Act were amended the method of appointing recruiting agents was void.

UNI reports: The UAE continues to prefer to give Indians employment.

COMMERCE MINISTER PREDICTS 'TEMPORARY' TROUBLE IN 1980

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 30 Mar 80 p 3

[Text] Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Union Commerce Minister, gave a gloomy picture of the Indian economy at the annual meeting of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta on Saturday. He feared there would be a considerable decline in farm production and stagnation in industries this year.

Mr Mukherjee was, however, hopeful that the "temporary difficulties" could be overcome with the cooperation of industrialists. He said the latest indications suggested a decline of 1/3% in the GNP this year. Farm production was expected to decline considerably and industrial production was expected to be stagnant if not marginally lower than last year's.

Growth in key sectors like power, coal, steel, cement and fertilizers would be inadequate to meet the needs of a growing economy. A "vicious" inflation had gripped the economy, with prices registering a rise of more than 20%.

According to Mr Mukherjee, the increasing import bill and the consequent balance of payments had once again emerged as a constraint to economic growth. To tide over these difficulties, he called for a sharp increase in production and exports.

The Government, he said, proposed to reactivate the power sector and streamline transport facilities. Installed capacities of industries would have to be fully utilized to increase production. Efficiency of the public sector undertakings would have to be improved he added.

Mr S.C. Nandy, president of the Chamber, urged the Government to solve the power crisis and provide coal and other inputs to increase production. He suggested withdrawal of all curbs on the private sector.

He said the Centre should help West Bengal in all possible ways to execute its power projects and help remove bottlenecks in the railways.

CSO: 4220

ATTACK INDICATES FACTIONALISM IN OUTLAWED MANIPUR PARTY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Mar 80 p 9

[Text] Imphal, March 27 (PTI): Insurgents' attack yesterday on security personnel, leaving one dead and seriously injuring another, is considered here as a pointer to factionalism in the outlawed "peoples revolutionary party of Kangelipak (Prepak) which recently entered into an agreement with the Manipur government for settlement of issues through dialogue.

Leaflets distributed clandestinely in the capital spelt out the Prepak hardcore's "rejection of the peace move" and described as "counterrevolutionaries and antipeople," the group, led by Tulachandra Singh who had come to the agreement with the government.

Tulachandra, now under judicial custody along with four others, since his recent capture from a hideout by Assam rifles gave a call on February 28 to the undergrounds to halt insurgency temporarily. The state government subsequently reciprocated this gesture and announced suspension of all operations against the members of Prepak for one month from March 15 to pave the way for lasting peace in the state.

The leaflets said these members had agreed to lay down arms and surrender to the authorities "without the approval of the highest body of the organisation."

"Such people are liable to be shot dead," the leaflets said and threatened "identical punishment," to those who would "extend them shelter and help."

CSO: 4220

REVAMPING THE POWER SECTION IN NORTHERN REGION

Bombay INDUSTRIAL TIMES in English 25 Feb-9 Mar 80 pp 23, 25

[Text]

The Northern Regional Electricity Board's gross mismanagement is largely responsible for the widening gap between the planned target and actual availability of power, apart from the poor and unplanned maintenance of the installed generating capacity. The need of the hour is for perspective planning and streamlining of the working of the State Electricity Boards.

THE economic prosperity or backwardness of a region is in direct proportion to the quantum of power available there. If it is low, sluggishness is the natural consequence.

The northern region seems to be placed in the most unenviable position in this regard.

Not only the gap between the installed capacity proposed and capacity actually installed has been widening but the actually installed capacity has also not been used to the optimum.

The generating capacity actually installed in the year 1976-77 was less by 1167 MW at 5800 MW than the proposed installed capacity of 6967 MW.

According to the tenth annual power survey, the installed capacity in the region this year (1979-80) will be 9790 MW. The peak availability during the year will be only 8372 MW. The figures are likely to go up to 11623 MW and 7772 MW respectively in 1983-84. The energy requirement in the same year will be 52146 MKWH while the availability will be only 48099 MKWH. The gap between demand and supply will thus continue to rise and become much more difficult to bridge.

Let us take a look at the power systems of some of the states, the operation of which is coordinated by the Northern Regional Electricity Board.

In Haryana, power generation had gone up from 405 MW in 1967, the year of its creation, to 6730 MW in 1978. But the connected load during the same period rose from 3.72 lakh KW to 17.83 lakh KW. Thus the power supply which increased by only 113 per cent failed to keep pace with the 380 per cent rise in demand.

In U.P. the peak demand in the year 1980-81 is estimated at 3190 MW. The availability will, however, be only 2777 MW. The energy demand will be 16605 million units while the availability will be only 15481 million units.

In Delhi, the energy availability this year is expected to be 2359 MKWH while the demand is for 2543 MKWH. The demand is likely to go up to 3720 MKWH in 1983-84 while the availability will be only 2784 MKWH. The position in Punjab, Rajasthan, H.P., Chandigarh and Jammu & Kashmir is also far from satisfactory.

What is mainly responsible for these widening gaps between target and availability is the non-commissioning of the scheduled projects apart from poor and unplanned maintenance of the generating capacity already installed and losses in transmission and distribution. The shortfalls in addition to generating capacity can be attributed "to lack of pre-planning, delays in delivery of plant and equipment, non-sequential delivery of equipment, shortage of essential construction inputs, delays in construction of civil works, and delays and inadequacies in project funding etc."

The situation can only be corrected by restructuring the power set-up and a realistic long-term approach to the problem. As Mr. L. M. Thapar, the noted industrialist and former chairman of the Punjab, Haryana, Delhi

Chamber of Commerce and Industry says, "The planning of power has to be ahead of requirements and no resource constraints should be allowed to come in its way." Power planning cannot really be brought within the strict discipline of the five-year plans as a hydel project takes five to eight and a thermal plant four to six years for erection and commissioning. There is a need for perspective planning for 20 to 25 years.

Ambiguity about the role envisaged for the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has to a large extent been responsible for faulty project planning and delayed execution. Most often it has functioned without a regular Chairman. It has been suggested that the CEA chairman should hold the authority of Secretary (Power) in the Energy Ministry and the member (planning) of CEA should be the ex-officio adviser to the Planning Commission on power to ensure expeditious consideration and clearance of projects. Depleting treasuries in a field of activity which is highly capital-intensive very heavily tell upon the efficient working State Electricity Boards. The obligation to provide power at concessional tariff to the

farm sector and mismanagement are responsible for it. The Boards have, however, taken recourse to indiscriminate increase in tariffs in order to make up deficits.

In addition to it, some states impose electricity duty varying from 25 to 50 per cent of the energy bills. Centre also collects duty on power generation.

It has been suggested that the Boards should not pass on the major financial burden on the industrial sector but base their tariffs on the cost of service concept. If some section is to be provided cheap power, the Boards should seek subsidies from the Government. However, to prevent the power crisis in the region as also in the whole country from assuming still more formidable proportions, it is of paramount importance that the state electricity boards are organised on a functional basis and run on commercial lines by professionals and not defeated politicians.

Against the backdrop of a gloomy picture for the future, the new Energy Minister, Mr. A. G. K. Chaudhary's statement that the Centre proposes to set up its own power plants at various locations in the scarcity areas comes as a comforting relief.

FIRST ARMY DEATHS REPORTED IN MIZORAM INSURGENCY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Mar 80 p 1

[Text] Shillong, March 28.--Two Army Jawans were burnt to death under mysterious circumstances at Pavrachao village along the Mizoram-Manipur border on March 25, official sources said today, reports UNI.

The sources quoted sketchy reports as saying that the two who formed part of a patrol party were caught in a "jhum" (shifting cultivation) fire. Three others, including a Junior Commissioned Officer, were taken to the Aizawl Military Hospital with severe burns.

This is the first time in the history of insurgency in Mizoram that security forces men have faced such death. "Jhuming" requires burning of trees to clear hill slopes for cultivation.

Meanwhile the Minister of State for Home, Mr Yogendra Makwana, told the Lok Sabha today that combing operations had been resumed by security forces in Mizoram.

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 Cr-PC had been enforced wherever necessary, he added.

Mr Makwana was making a statement in response to a call-attention motion by Mr Vikram Manajan and others on the spurt in rebel activity.

PTI adds: The Chief Minister of Mizoram, Brigadier Thenphunga Sailo, told the State Assembly in Aizawl today that Government was taking steps to prevent violent incidents suspected to have been perpetrated by the outlawed Mizo National Front.

The Chief Minister who was making a statement, said nobody would approve the violent activities including murders, which only brought misery to innocent people.

Meanwhile, security measures have been further tightened and the authorities have urged all citizens in the Union Territory not to give shelter to

suspected MNF insurgents who were believed to have entered Mizoram from across the border in two groups early this year, official sources said.

A delayed message received in Aizawl said that an administrative office was burnt down on March 25 by suspected insurgents, at Bunzung in the Champhai sub-division, southeast of Aizawl, the sources said.

CSO: 4220

COMPTROLLER GENERAL DISCUSSES DELAY IN DEFENSE PROJECTS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Mar 80 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI March 28—The Auditor and Comptroller-General has said that some glaring delays took place in the completion of several defence projects which include the development and manufacture of an aircraft.

In his report on defence services for 1974-79, the Auditor and Comptroller-General has said that the project involving the development and manufacture of an aircraft at a cost of Rs 90 lakhs over a three year period was far from complete, though Rs 281.36 lakhs had been spent on it by June 1979. As a result of delay, a number of aircraft had to be imported.

Citing another instance, the report says that a project of modernization of an ordnance factory estimated to cost Rs 7.73 crores and scheduled to be completed in four years had not been completed in November 1979 though Rs 10.16 crores had been spent by March, 1979 against the revised estimate of Rs 13.17 crores.

A nitric acid plant ordered in March, 1967 at a cost of Rs 49.18

lakhs was scheduled to be set up by June 1971. The plant was accepted in January 1976 after pre-commissioning trial runs and the expenditure incurred amounted to Rs 63.28 lakhs. Owing to a delay of four years in completing the erection and subsequent shortfall in production, nitric acid costing Rs 224.75 lakhs had to be procured during January, 1973 to February, 1979.

The report adds that owing to delay in manufacturing aluminium profiles and meagre production at the extrusion press set up at a cost of Rs 704 lakhs, 32 assault bridges supplied out of an order of 40 had to be made from profiles imported at a cost of Rs 803.06 lakhs. Besides, replacement of girders of the bridges which had developed cracks, would cost Rs 19 crores.

CND: 5220

NEW TYPE OF PLANE ENGINE, TANK DEVELOPED

Calcutta ENGINEERING TIMES in English 25 Feb & 6 Mar 80 pp 1, 5

[Text] A new type of aircraft engine, known as the GTX engine having great potential for future aircraft and "satisfying our needs" has been developed under the country's aeronautics development programme, Dr Raja Ramanna, scientific adviser to the Defense Ministry, disclosed in Calcutta recently.

But, Dr Ramanna said, the "most noteworthy" was a mobile battle tank, being developed at the Combat Vehicles Research and Development establishment at Avadi entirely on indigenous design.

Dr Ramanna said the engine of the tank was entirely new. He said "it has a rating of 1,500 horsepower and is air-cooled. It is a 50-tonne class tank and suits our roads and bridges. The engine was fabricated in a very short period of time and has just gone through preliminary trials which have proved "very successful." The other parts of the engine, the armaments, sighting and gun have also been designed in India."

Delivering the 22nd Sir M Visvesvaraya memorial lecture on the "Role of Scientific and Engineering Institutions in Defense Research and Development" at the recent diamond jubilee of the Institution of Engineers (India), Dr Ramanna emphasized the need for involving private sector industries in the development of the country's major defense systems and sub-systems.

Dr Ramanna said the country was also capable of contributing in a big way to self-reliance in defense. "It is now our business to see how by better coordination between Defense R. and D., defense production and civil industry, we can make India a very self-reliant country from the point of view of defense preparedness," Dr Ramanna said.

CSO: 4220

SUGAR INDUSTRY OPPOSES GOVERNMENT IMPORT PLANS

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Mar 80 p 16

[Text] New Delhi, March 27. The Government move for the import of sugar on barter basis to meet the present shortage has been opposed by the sugar industry.

According to Mr D.D. Puri President of the Indian Sugar Mills Association, the present shortage is "Government-made" and any import will not help bring down the prices. On the other hand, it would only lead to the country forfeiting its right to export, he said at a press conference here.

Mr Puri contended that by proper management of the available stock, the Government could meet the needs of domestic consumption and also export commitments under the International Sugar Agreement. Production in the current season was expected to be around 40 lakhs tonnes and with the carryover stocks from the last season, a monthly supply of four lakhs tonnes could be ensured, besides meeting export commitments. He felt that it would be unwise to get away from the export market.

The ISMA President attributed the present crisis to the failure of the Janata Government to build a buffer stock when there was a glut in production and to the advice given by the former Prime Minister, Mr Charan Singh to farmers to grow less cane.

Mr Puri said that free sale sugar prices had already declined following the step-up in the movement of levy sugar, and it could be brought down still further if the Government allowed larger release of free sale sugar.

The ISMA had suggested to Government to reduce the monthly quota of levy sugar from 2.7 lakhs tonnes to 2.05 lakh tonnes and increase in the free-sale quota from 1.25 lakh tonnes to 1.95 lakhs tonnes. The reduction in levy sugar quota had been suggested because, in the absence of an effective public distribution system, levy sugar got into the black market.

Mr Puri struck an optimistic note about production prospects in the next season. He said that reports received by ISMA showed that cane sowing had been quite satisfactory and given a reasonable monsoon, cane production should be high. He was hopeful that sugar production in the next season might be more than 60 lakhs tonnes. He urged the Government to announce adequate incentives for early crushing which would help check diversion of cane to gur and khandsari.

EFFICACY OF GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL POLICY QUESTIONED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Mar 80 p 8

[Editorial: "Still Muddled"]

[Text] If the new Union government has an industrial policy, it is hardly visible even in broad outline. Nearly two and a half months have gone by since the new ministers assumed office but they have still to take a single meaningful initiative to spur growth. Almost all important decisions for new investments in steel, coal, petro-chemicals, transport, power and other industries have been held up; the Planning Commission is still topless; nothing worthwhile has been done to put industrial relations on an even keel and grievous shortages of sugar, diesel and kerosene continue to plague the economy, particularly in the rural areas. It may be, as the authorities never tire of proclaiming, that the ineptitude of the former Janata-Lok Dal regimes is largely responsible for the mess. The fact remains that the present set-up has yet to show the vigour and the imagination needed to clean it up. A survey of a hundred odd industries by the Director-general of Technical Development has just revealed that almost two-thirds of them recorded a negative rate of growth during the ten months ended January, 1980, and that the biggest single cause of decline in production was the reservation of items for the small-scale sector, closely followed by the lack of power, coal or rail transport. And, though the new Union finance minister, Mr R. Venkatraman, has criticised the Janata's bid artificially to boost the output of small units and create a so-called tiny sector in no uncertain terms, neither he nor any of his colleagues has thought it fit so far to order a thorough review of the former government's ill-advised reservation policy. Likewise, steps to improve the working of coal mines are not in sight. In fact, on present form, coal production is not only likely to decline to 94 million tonnes during 1979-80 but even the target for coal raisings for next year will be set at 97 million tonnes—which is nearly 14 million tonnes less than the output actually achieved in 1976-77!

Against this background, the efficacy of the decisions said to have been taken the other day by the Union cabinet's subcommittee on infrastructure to rationalise rail transport is open to serious doubt. It is reported to have earmarked a certain number of wagons for the movement of coal to thermal power stations for the first ten days of every month and virtually rationed

out the rest for the transport of six sensitive commodities: soft coke, diesel, kerosene, cement, vegetable oils and sugar. In the absence of an overall improvement in the efficiency of the rail network, the new scheme of priorities is bound to hit other sectors of the economy. (Engineering units, for instance, may suffer grievously if they cannot get deliveries of steel and other raw materials in good time.) Besides, it is plain that rail transport alone cannot alleviate shortages of critical items unless vigorous measures are also taken to augment availability through increased production or higher imports.

CSO: 4220

INDIAN RESERVE BANK RELAXES NONFOOD CREDIT CURBS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Mar 80 p 7

[Text]

BOMBAY, March 27.—The Reserve Bank of India has granted more flexibility to banks in adjusting credit expansion, saying that their net non-food credit expansion during the 15-month period from the end of March 1979 to the end of June 1980 should not exceed expansion during the previous period in absolute terms, reports **UNI**.

The RBI Governor, Mr I. G. Patel, told chief executives of major banks yesterday that the net non-food credit expansion should be exclusive of bills rediscounted with RBI, but inclusive of participation certificates. He reviewed the current economic and monetary situation and the outlook for the next few months and emphasized that there did not call for any relaxation of credit restraint.

Mr Patel told the bankers that more attention should be paid to the credit needs of under-privileged people, most of which have been identified in the 20-point programme. The bankers were also told that their reserve requirements—cash reserve ratio of 6%

incremental cash reserve ratio of 10% and statutory liquidity ratio of 34% would continue unchanged.

The present restrictions on the effective drawing power under the limits for cash credits and inland bills of over Rs 25 lakhs will continue till the end of June. Banks have been asked to undertake an annual review of each such cash credit account. The base for the small farmers' window for the RBI's refinance facility will remain unchanged.

From the last Friday of April, the base for food and export refinance will be altered. In the case of food refinance, the base will be raised from Rs 1,000 crores to Rs 2,000 crores. However, the proportion of refinance will be maintained at 80%.

The banks have been told that export refinance will be based on the increase in export credit over the monthly average for 1978 and not of the monthly average for 1977 as was being done. The proportion of refinance will remain at 50%.

CSO: 4220

EXPORTS EXPECTED TO RISE BY 20 PERCENT IN 1980-81

New Delhi THE PATRIOT in English 28 Mar 80 p 3

[Text]

ACCORDING to Government estimates, it is possible to step up the country's exports by about 20 per cent in 1980-81 provided production constraints are removed, greater capacity utilisation is achieved and present capacity is increased.

The areas with big export leads are engineering goods, gems and jewellery, agriculture and allied products, ores and minerals, handicrafts, natural silk textiles, woollen, coir, leather goods, etc.

Competent sources believe that the Government would not follow a 'stop-go' policy in exports, but would go in for a sustained drive to capture, retain and consolidate markets. Not would export efforts be slackened to accommodate domestic demand.

This thrust is being contemplated in the wake of the trade deficit in the current financial year, which by January had crossed Rs 1,600 crores, and by year end threatens to swamp Rs 2,000 crores mark.

A high growth rate of 35 to 45 per cent is likely to be fixed for engineering goods export, 25 to 30 per cent for gems and jewel-

lery for which the international market is reviving, and 20 to 30 per cent for man-made and natural silk textiles, handicrafts, coirs, woollens, leathers and their manufactures. In the case of textiles, only a marginal increase is envisaged.

For agriculture and allied products, which account for about a sixth of the country's export, no growth target is being determined, but it is understood that emphasis will be on pushing ahead of the exports under this head.

In this connection, it is felt that public sector agencies like the NAFED and cooperative agencies could play an important role to supplement the efforts of the State Trading Corporation.

Vigorously pushing the exports of ores and minerals and chemicals and chemical products is also on the cards.

It is felt that the protectionism practised by the West would not come in the way of the country's export attempts as most of the above goods are sent to the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Africa.

HUGE TRADE DEFICIT FOR 1979 FISCAL YEAR

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 3 Mar 80 p 3

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 2

INDIA will close the current fiscal year ending March 31 with a huge adverse trade balance of rupees 20 billion (US\$2.5 billion), according to provisional estimates made by the Commerce Ministry.

The projected gap will exceed last year's adverse trade balance by rupees 8 billion (US\$1 billion).

The higher costs of imports of petrol and petroleum products were mainly responsible for the increasing trade deficit, officials said.

The oil import bill accounts for nearly half of India's annual exports of a little over 60 billion rupees (US\$7.5 billion).

Imports have risen by 21 per cent whereas exports have gone up by a nominal 5 per cent over last year's figures.

A shortfall in agricultural production, due to drought, shortage of fertilisers and drastic power cuts mainly contributed to declining exports of agricultural products.

With a record high inflation rate of 23.5 per cent, an almost negative industrial growth and fall in agricultural production, India will close the current fiscal year with a record deficit of rupees 20 billion (US\$2.5 billion), Indian economists said.

The expected deficit will exceed the deficit anticipated when the annual budget was presented in February last year by rupees 8.4 billion (US\$100 million).

The inflation rate soared by three points in the last six weeks despite a sharp decline in money supply.

LONDON: India is mounting one of its biggest industrial exhibitions abroad in Britain next week as part of a campaign to change the country's image as an exporter of mainly primary goods and commodities.

The five-day exhibition in the industrial city of Birmingham, titled "Industrial India — the trade fair that will open your eyes," will be inaugurated tomorrow by British Trade Secretary John Nott.

Taking part will be more than 60 mostly medium-sized engineering companies with such wares as automobile parts, builders' hardware, forgings and castings, electrical and electronic equipment, machine tools and scientific instruments.

It is the biggest effort mounted in Britain at projecting Indian industry and technology, according to the country's Acting High Commissioner in London, I.P. Singh. — UPI, Reuter

PRODUCTION AT BOKARO STEEL PLANT OFF 10 PERCENT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Mar 80 pp 1, 9

[Article by M.H. Jadhav]

[Text] Bokaro City, March 27--Production of saleable steel at the State-owned Bokaro Steel Plant will be 10% less at 850,000 tonnes in the current financial year, against 930,000 tonnes in the previous year. It is a pity that the highly sophisticated Bokaro complex, with an annual installed capacity of 2.5 million tonnes of ingot steel to produce 1.8 million tonnes of finished steel, should end the current year with an output of just over 800,000 tonnes of saleable steel.

Power and coal scarcity has afflicted the Rs 14,000-crore Bokaro complex for a year. As one plant manager put it: "Time hangs on us cruelly for hours together when the Durgapur Valley Corporation suddenly stops power supply." Mr Murzban Mehta, General Superintendent of the Bokaro complex, has been monitoring the meagre power supply and distributing it to the different units. He emphasized that DVC was under a contractual obligation to supply the plant 145 MW every day, although only 25 MW were available. "Something has seriously gone wrong somewhere."

Mr Mehta said that during the last 11 months, power restrictions imposed by DVC amounted to 7,000 hours which was thrice the number of restrictions and frequency isolations in the corresponding period last year. In the second half of the current financial year, month by month power restrictions by DVC showed an increasing trend and in March they were the worst. Apparently, there is hardly any preventive maintenance at the DVC's power plants. Apart from breakdown repairs, hardly any measures are taken to keep it in working order. There was no assurance by DVC that power supply would be regular next year.

Power restrictions have affected the Bokaro plant's capacity to roll semi-finished steel finished products. Consider the stock of ingot steel and slabs in April last year which were only 8,000 tonnes and

30,900 tonnes. However on March 20 this year, the stock of ingot steel stood at 300,000 tonnes and that of slab at 82,790 tonnes. The plant's ingot steel output went up by 30% in the current year over the preceding year. This has only added to the accumulation of semi-finished steel which could not be rolled into finished products because of power shortfall.

Power restrictions imposed on the Bokaro plant have created further problems. For instance, they have affected the production of iron ore at the Bokaro's captive mine at Kiriburu and availability of coal. It has been pointed out that hot metal production in the blast furnaces which significantly rose to 178,000 tonnes in October 1979 has gradually dropped in the subsequent months to 130,000 tonnes a month mainly on account of inadequate supply of coal as well as its inferior quality.

Mr G. D. Singh, Acting General Manager of the Kiriburu Iron Ore Project, told this reporter that his complex could mine and process 300,000 tonnes of iron ore a month. At his plant the requirement is 5 MW a day while only one to 1.5 MW are supplied.

The Bokaro Steel Plant authorities are beset by yet another major constraint--inadequate supply of rakes by the Railways. This has affected the movement of iron ore, coal, lime stone and dolomite. The plant requires four to five rakes a day where as the Railways supplied only two empty ones at loading points. Of late, the Railways have taken up the movement of coal on a priority basis. Hence the stock of coking coal at the steel plant has gone up to three to four days' level.

OIL, GAS DEPOSITS FOUND IN ARUNACHAL

Calcutta ENGINEERING TIMES in English 21 Feb 80 p 15

[Text] A number of oil and gas seepages have been discovered in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh.

According to the Geological Survey of India (GSI) sources the seepages had been reported in the Namchi area and off Tissa stream in south of Kanubari.

The GSI had also discovered oil-bearing beds in the Pasighat area of Siang district.

Oil bearing sandstones had been found in the Miao-Vijayanagar road section and other nearby places.

Oil India Limited had recently struck oil in the Kharsang area and preliminary investigations showed that the Mana-Bum ranges in Miand region held vast oil reserves.

Though no concrete information on the occurrence of gold in Arunachal was immediately available, some old records indicated gold panning in the sands of Buridihing river. The GSI was conducting an extensive survey to discover gold on the Union territory.

GSI was conducting investigations in different areas of the territory to find new mineral metal and gas reserves by deploying trained personnel and sophisticated equipment.

Deposits of marble had already been identified in Dapu, Lipushi and Mechuka areas in the upper Siyom-valley and a few occurrences of high silica and magnesia and marble (crystalline limestone) deposits had been reported from Lohit district. The Tezu river deposit with an estimated reserve of 30.3 million tonnes up to a depth of 50 m and the Dora river deposit with a reserve of 43.3 million tonnes up to a depth of 50 m, were suitable for lime b g and used as building stone, he added.

While, coarse-grained marble deposit had been identified in the Dirang area near the Bomdila-Tawang road.

CSO: 4220

MORE JOBS, JOB-SEEKERS REPORTED FOR LAST HALF OF 1979

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Mar 80 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 27.—As many as 620,000 more people have joined the queue for jobs in the last six months of last year.

According to latest figures, the number of people who had registered with the employment exchanges at the end of December last was 14.33 million, against 13.71 million recorded in June last year.

Of the 14.33 million unemployed 12.43 million were men and 1.90 million women.

An analysis of last June's figures show that the largest number of educated (matriculates and above) registered with the employment exchanges was in West Bengal (942,600). This was followed by Bihar (859,400), U.P. (791,200), Kerala (628,200), Maharashtra (560,300), Andhra Pradesh (489,900), Tamil Nadu (486,900), Karnataka (342,100), and Madhya Pradesh (337,800).

The Government of West Bengal, Punjab, Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat have introduced schemes for giving unemployment or retention allowance or financial assistance to job-seekers registered with the employment exchanges for more than a specified period. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have also launched employment guarantee schemes which include a provision for payment of unemployment allowance to those who are not provided with work under the scheme.

The review of employment in the organized sector for the quarter ending March 1979, made by the Directorate-General of Employment and Training shows that employment increased from 21.84 million in December 1978 to 22.18 million in March, recording a growth rate of 1.5%.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

INDO-SOVIET SCIENCE PACT--New Delhi, March 28--A three-year programme of cooperation in science and technology between India and the USSR for 1980-83 was signed here today. Prof. M.G.K. Menon, secretary, department of science and technology, signed the programme on the Indian side while Dr L.N. Efremov, first deputy chairman of the state committee for science and technology, signed on the Soviet side. The programme is in the framework of the intergovernmental agreement on science and technology concluded in 1972. The programme identifies specific projects in several areas such as magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) power generation, solar energy, powder metallurgy, corrosion of metals, standardisation, building materials, large-scale housing and meteorology. The distribution of work between the two sides and the year-wise schedule of activities have also been worked out in these areas. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Mar 80 p 9]

STATE PLANNING BOARD--Bhubaneswar, March 29: The governor, Mr B.D. Sharma, has reconstituted the state planning board, high level committees and boards of some public corporations. The Lok Dal government had appointed many party-men as chairmen and nonofficial members of these bodies. Soon after the state came under President's rule two months ago, Congress(I) leaders here had demanded the removal of Lok Dal men from positions they were holding in the planning board and public undertakings. The former chief minister, Mr Nilamoni Routray, was ex-officio chairman of the 14-member planning board, in the reconstituted board, the adviser to the governor, Mr K.S. Raghupathi, has been made chairman. Mr C.M. Mishra, an industrialist belonging to the Lok Dal, who was deputy chairman of the board, has been dropped. Other nonofficial members have also been replaced. The additional chief secretary has become chairman of the tourism development corporation in the place of Mr Harish Chandra Buxipatra, who was industries minister in the Lok Dal cabinet. Another official has taken over as chairman of the greater Cuttack improvement trust from Mr Sangram Mahapatra, a Lok Dal member of the dissolved Vidhan sabha. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Mar 80 p 6]

NEPAL MONEY EXCHANGE--New Delhi, March 27.--The Posts and Telegraphs Department will start exchange of money orders between India and Nepal from April 13, 1980, reports PTI. The amount of money orders exchanged in both directions will be expressed in Indian rupee and the payments will be made in the currencies of the respective countries. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Mar 80 p 6]

FORMER JUSTICE DIES--Patna, March 27.--Mr Justice Ezra Reubens, former Chief Justice of Patna High Court, died in Bombay on Monday, says UNI, quoting reports here. The Bihar Governor, Mr A.R. Kidwai, has sent a condolence message to Mrs Reubens. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Mar 80 p 6]

ORISSA ELECTION PLANS--Bhubaneswar, March 28 (PTI)--The Orissa Pradesh Congress Committee (U) has decided to have an electoral adjustment with the CPI(M) and other left democratic forces to defeat the authoritarian forces in the forthcoming election to the State Assembly. The decision was taken by the executive of the OPCC (U) which met here on Wednesday. In a resolution release yesterday the executive declared that the party would contest the election with a view to forming a 'stable and progressive' Government in the State. Mr Binayak Acharya, President of the OPCC(U) presided over the meeting. [Text] [New Delhi THE PATRIOT in English 29 Mar 80 p 4]

NAGALAND RESIGNATIONS--Kohima, March 27. Crisis in the ruling United Democratic Front (UDF) deepened today with the resignation of three more MLAs from the party on the eve of the biennial election to the Rajya Sabha tomorrow. In a signed statement here today, Mr Kariba, Mr Tsu Jem Wati and Mr Nuklo, said the people of Nagaland had lost their faith in the present Government, because of the infighting and factionalism in the UDF. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Mar 80 p 1]

MAHARASHTRA CONGRESS(I) MEMBERS--New Delhi, March 27. Three Janata Party leaders of Maharashtra today announced their decision to resign from the party and join the Congress (I). They are Dr. Namdeorao Gadekar, former Minister of State in the Pawar Ministry, MrSubhash Sarvagod former MLA and Janata Party Joint Secretary and Mr Chandra Sekhar Wankhede also a Joint Secretary. In a joint statement here, they said Mrs Bandhi, by achieving a landslide victory in Maharashtra in the Lok Sabha poll "has proved that she is the crusader for the cause of the poor and downtrodden."--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Mar 80 p 1]

CSO: 4220

CAMPAIGN MOUNTED TO ABOLISH DEATH PENALTY

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 8 Mar 80 p 6

[Article by Ingo Hertel in Jakarta]

[Excerpt]

A FORMER Foreign Minister, an air force commander, a handful of murderers and some drug traffickers, all have a common interest in a political debate taking place in Indonesia over the death penalty.

They are all awaiting execution.

The Foreign Minister is Dr Subandrio, who was sentenced to death after the abortive communist coup in 1968, and has been awaiting execution or pardon ever since in a bungalow attached to the Nirbaya Prison outside Jakarta.

He is one of an estimated 85 people under sentence of death in Indonesian prisons — five of them common criminals and about 30 political offenders.

As well as Dr Subandrio these include Omar Dhanl, a former Air Force Chief of Staff.

The impetus behind a movement calling for the end of the death penalty has been increased by the recent firing-squad execution of an habitual criminal who had been under the death sentence for 18 years.

Under Indonesian law, the death penalty can be imposed for murder, treason, political or economic subversion, drug trafficking and drug taking.

All of those under the death sentence at the moment have appealed for clemency to President Suharto, but he has neither pardoned any nor rejected their appeals nor signed their execution orders.

The campaign against the death penalty is being spearheaded by an organisation whose initials H.A.T.I. spell a word meaning "heart" or "careful" in Indonesian.

Members say the word is significant — "heart" reminding people of religious obligations to be merciful, while "careful" is a warning that possible juridical errors cannot be corrected once their victims have been executed.

Among the HATI organisers are such veteran human rights campaigners as Dutch born Haji Ponke Princen and the noted defence lawyer Adnan Buyung Nasution, but the campaign has received its highest-ranking support so far from Vice-President Adam Malik, who stated recently it was only for God to take life and not for human beings.

The campaign has brought a spotlight on to the almost forgotten 65-year-old Dr Subandrio, who was regarded as the second-strongest man in Indonesia behind former President Sukarno, and

possibly as his successor, until his downfall after the abortive communist coup.

Dr Subandrio and about 30 others, including Omar Dhanl, were found guilty of treason by a military tribunal.

They have been left in limbo for more than a dozen years because General Suharto has made no decision on their appeals for clemency.

"It is mental cruelty, psychological torture and probably a violation of internationally accepted norms of human rights to leave prisoners in uncertainty for such a long time," said one HATI supporter who asked not to be named.

Other observers believe President Suharto is merely avoiding a formal decision — which can be seen as a compromise solution in that it lets the convicted men live although their death sentences are not formally commuted.

This thinking was reflected in a statement recently by Vice-President Malik who told reporters he had advised General Suharto against executing Dr Subandrio and his political friends because he had always been opposed to capital punishment on principle.

Asked about the President's reaction, Mr Malik

said the President replied: "I have not signed anything yet."

Mr Malik said his personal feeling was that Dr Subandrio would probably not be executed, and this view is shared by most observers here although opinions are divided over whether or not President Suharto will formally spare the former Sukarnoist strongman's life one day.

Meanwhile, Dr Subandrio, whose wife and only child, 31-year-old adopted son, both died of natural causes six years ago — has turned to religion and appears resigned to this fate.

The last time he talked to a foreign reporter was two and a half years ago in his prison bungalow, stacked with a large number of books.

"I went astray, I took the wrong job," Dr Subandrio, a qualified surgeon, told the reporter, under the watchful eyes of security officers.

"God put me in jail because of my mistakes," the reporter quoted Dr Subandrio as having said.

CITIZENSHIP DECREE MAY SIGNAL RESUMPTION OF CHINA TIES

Jakarta Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 11 Mar 80 p 6

[Article by Simbarsono in Jakarta]

[Text]

THE Presidential decree offering Indonesian citizenship to Chinese aliens here has aroused speculations that President Suharto may formally announce the normalisation of diplomatic relations with China on the eve of the National day, Aug. 18.

The decree, made public last week, stipulates that applications from nearly one million Chinese here to take on Indonesian citizenship should be processed not later than Aug. 17.

The deadline made certain analysts speculate that the resumption of normal links between Jakarta and Peking might be announced by President Suharto in his nationwide address on the eve of Indonesia's Independence Day.

Unlike his predecessor, the late President Sukarno who always delivered the speech on Aug. 17 from a dais at the Palace ground direct to the people, President Suharto prefers to make the speech in a closed-door session of Parliament one day before the National Day.

The issuance of the decree has attracted many Chinese to come to local district courts seeking further information about it and filling application forms.

The public, particularly the Chinese community and leading intellectuals, have hailed the decree saying that it will end the protracted problem of overseas Chinese here which has been the main obstacle in the efforts to normalise diplomatic relations with China, suspended 13 years ago following charges that China had backed the alleged Communist coup in 1965 in which six leading Indonesian army generals were murdered.

Under the decree each application must be settled within two weeks after it is received.

The growing signs on the resumption of normal relations between Indonesia and China have become obvious with an announcement by the Government's National Youth Committee (KNPI) that it would like to invite its Chinese counterpart to attend the coming celebration of the 25th anniversary of the historic Asian-African Conference in Bandung, West Java, next month.

Foreign Minister Mochar Rusaatmadja has said that in principle Indonesia is ready to normalise ties with China.

"But the thing is just the overseas Chinese here and the Presidential

decree is intended to solve the problem," he told newsmen recently.

Over two-thirds of the some three million Chinese have adopted Indonesian citizenship and the rest are technically citizens of the People's Republic of China, while around 80,000 hold Taiwan passports.

The Chinese problem has emerged since Sukarno's time in 1965 when his Foreign Minister Dr. Subandrio signed a dual citizenship agreement with the late Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai allowing Chinese here to adopt Indonesian and Chinese nationalities.

Maj. Gen. Sunarto, head of the Chinese Department at the State Intelligence Body (BAKIN) who formulated the Presidential decree, said the loyalty of Chinese aliens here was the main factor to have diplomatic links with China normalised.

Once their citizenship problem has been settled, practically, the obstacle is removed, he said.

Vice-President Adam Malik has disclosed that direct trade links between Indonesia and China, not through a third party which used to be Hong Kong and Singapore, have been established and Indonesian firms can export their

products direct to China.

However certain Indonesian officials appear to be still hesitant over China's sincere wish for normal relations following the statement by Chinese Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping in 1978 that China would continue to support communist insurgents in South-East Asia.

"The statement implies that Peking will carry on with its double-faced policy of aiding national communist insurgents on one hand and having formal ties on the other," an official said.

Several Indonesian communist leaders and leftwing figures are still in Peking and they include self-styled Communist Party chairman Jusuf Aditjatro, former envoy to China Djawoto, and former Antara News Agency correspondent in Peking, Soewito.

Causing quite a commotion here was the widely publicised picture last year of a meeting between Chinese Premier Hua Guofeng and Aditjatro in Peking.

The picture gave the impression that China still recognised the outlawed Indonesian Communist Party, the officials said.

However, both governments had agreed to resume normal links whenever necessary, they added. — AFP

DK MINISTER THIOUNN THIOUM REVIEW: KAMPUCHEA SITUATION

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 28 Mar 80 p 8

[Interview with Democratic Kampuchea Minister of Economy Thiounn Thioum, the head of the government delegation to the 36th ESCAP conference held in Bangkok between 18 and 29 March 1980, by Nukun Nuansi: "'As For Victory, It Is Certain That We Will Eventually Win. We Believe That Those Who Fight For Justice Against Invaders Must Achieve Victory In the End. Doesn't History Teach Us That Invaders Must Lose In the End?'"]

[Text] SIAM RAT: When did you take your present position?

[Answer] During the last internal change of government in October 1979 when Khieu Samphan became prime minister.

SIAM RAT: Why was there a change of leaders?

[Answer] So that things would be correct in the struggle. Former prime minister Pol Pot is now the military leader and is responsible for everything concerning the military aspects of the war; he is the chairman of the [Supreme] Commission of the National Army.

SIAM RAT: There are reports that Pol Pot is dead.

[Answer] That is not true. He is still leading the fight. The enemy has spread such rumors to destroy our image in the eyes of the people so that they will believe that there are internal divisions among us.

SIAM RAT: As for the war, what is the situation like at present? Is the government of Democratic Kampuchea in control of a larger area?

[Answer] As for which side is in control of what areas, it is difficult to say because at present the war is expanding greatly. We made a survey last October, that is, during the last rainy season, and found that we controlled about 25 percent of the country. The enemy held another 25 percent and the remaining territory was the scene of fighting.

It is now the dry season and so the area of fighting has expanded. We are trying to expand our attacks. The Heng Samrin group and the Vietnamese are using the method of holding the cities and communication routes. But we control the rural areas and can attack easily. In reality, the situation is changing. We are gaining the upper hand because 4 months of the dry season have passed and there are only 2 more months until the rainy season begins. Vietnam has not been able to destroy us.

According to reports from outside the country, before the dry season began, Vietnam prepared for a large attack but after 4 months of fighting, it has not won. When the rainy season comes, the terrain will help us. Now, we are trying to cut the troop reinforcement lines and disrupt the construction of a new road through the Phanom Malai mountain range since this road would facilitate bringing in tanks to attack us. The enemy has been trying to build this road for a long time but up to now they have not been able to complete more than a few kilometers.

This road runs from Mak Hoen into our area, that is, their aim is to reach the Thai border.

SIAM RAT: How difficult is life for the government in the battle zones and when do you think you will achieve victory?

[Answer] As for the difficulties, we have to accept the fact that the government is not located all together under one roof and that we must be separated from each other. However, we can communicate with each other quickly.

Speaking about this, we use three military strategies in battle that we rely on as principles: awareness, rapid mobility and, at the same time, the preservation of "secrecy."

In order to be able to move rapidly, we must try to abandon those things that are not essential. In order to facilitate making attacks, we must make preparations and advance. At the same time, we must arouse the troops and villagers.

As for victory, it is certain that we will eventually win. We believe that those who fight for justice against invaders must achieve victory in the end. Doesn't history teach us that invaders, no matter how powerful, must lose. Alexander the Great, Napoleon and even Hitler were all destroyed. We are confident that we will be able to completely liberate our country and people.

SIAM RAT: When victory is achieved, what plans does the government have for rebuilding the country?

[Answer] We have stipulated as a principle the policy already announced to the outside world: We will use political means to bring both economic and social development.

To make this easier to understand, I would like to point out that our goal is to build a new socialist state. We must mobilize forces from all sides in and outside the country. Politically, we will build a new society that is a "home" for all Kampuchean groups. That is, we will give freedom to all sides and not give any attention to differences in ideals or beliefs. We will allow freedom in political competition and give rights and freedom to political parties that arise. People will be free to practice religion. We will not set up any restrictions or prohibitions as obstacles. These things will be done in order to join forces to build the country and defend ourselves against an enemy whose ambition is to annex our country.

Economically, based on our socialist goals, we will fully accept the cooperation and help of foreign countries and accept foreign investments. We believe that investments in the form of cooperative investments will help us rebuild our country because at present our economy and society have been totally destroyed.

As for foreign affairs, we will hold to the principle of cooperating fully with friendly countries, especially with the ASEAN countries and with the Asian and Pacific community.

As for this matter, we had already started to do this. After the coup, between 1975 and 1978 we began opening up the country and began doing business with foreign countries, especially with Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. We began doing business in earnest in 1978 with Thailand. We were in the process of opening air flights to Siem Reap and Nakon Wat but all these plans were destroyed by the invaders and this

is one reason why Vietnam decided to invade our country sooner. They saw that if they allowed any more time to pass, we would escape beyond the bounds of their ambition to expand their sphere of power and control us.

SIAM RAT: Now, has the government reviewed the lessons and mistakes of the past? There have been reports that the Pol Pot government was cruel to the people and there have been comments that this is one reason why the government was overthrown so easily. How true is this?

[Answer] In order to answer this, I must first point out that the real reason why we were easily overthrown is that the invaders are very powerful. The factor of the relationship between the government and the people played almost no part at all. In 1978 the people had started a new life. We had enough food and agricultural yields were high. Some of the surplus was starting to be exported. I can certainly confirm this since I was sent to work at an agricultural cooperative.

Before the coup, I was a businessman in Phnom Penh and was not involved with any party. When the new government implemented its work construction program in the rural areas by moving people out [of the cities] to join in the work, I was forced to go too and had to do tiring agricultural work just like other people.

As for the heavy work, I experienced the same things as other people in Kampuchea. If there are to be criticisms, we must consider what was necessary and what the real situation was in society at that time. We had to build everything from scratch. And after everyone had endured hardships for almost 3 years, we began to see a future but it was destroyed.

The plan to mobilize work forces as mentioned above was one thing that the government of that period was condemned for. It was condemned for cruelly forcing the people to work hard. In reality, everyone had specific times to work amounting to only 8 hours a day. Taking turns, workers did not work day and night as the rumors said. One American reporter who came and saw things wrote that while some people were working the soil and planting crops, others were swimming in the canals along the roads. This is true.

As for the rumors that the government killed people, I do not believe that the government ordered this. But it is true that there was some killing but this was not ordered by the government. Put simply, it can be said that there were two reasons for this: personal retaliation and the fact that lower echelon authorities carried things to extremes.

After the administrative system was changed, those who had personal arguments took this opportunity to retaliate. The new group retaliated against the groups that had once worked for the old government. After I left Phnom Penh and went to work in the fields, various people came in search of others; some of these people I knew and some I did not know. There was widespread confusion. Some groups carried things to extremes as mentioned above and let personal matters play a part. Some people had done bad things and had been their enemies during the time of the old system.

The administrative system had weaknesses and shortcomings but, at the same time, it had strengths. Think about this, if the Pol Pot government did not have some good points, why would I choose to join it in the fight and how could the people know which group is their friend and which their enemy? And more and more people are joining us every day.

Another fact that must be mentioned is that some people were unhappy about the government's performance and the social situation during that period. Everyone had to join together in building the country. It was inevitable that some individuals would suffer. Some people were separated from their families. Some people became sick and did not receive good treatment because of the lack of medical supplies. The things that these people experienced made them hate the government more and more at a time when the enemy was trying to spread rumors. Our image was, therefore, somewhat tarnished in the eyes of the outside world. But when the criminals invaded the country and began oppressing the people, it began to appear that justice was on our side.

SIAM RAT: There are reports that Vietnam has used poisonous gas in the war. Is there any proof of this?

This is true. Since the end of last year, the enemy has used weapons of all types to kill us and people who do not know anything about what is happening. At least 2 million Kampucheans have been killed. They have been shot, their

Villages have been burned and, as mentioned, they have been gassed. The basis of our medical proof is that there are changes in the vascular and pulmonary systems of those people who have been gassed. There is a reaction 2 hours before death when the feet swell.

Vietnam is using gas in areas where their tanks and troops cannot go. Aircraft and guns are used to fire the gas and the gas spreads over an area with a radius of approximately 500 meters. This is just like what is being done in Afghanistan.

SIAM RAT: There are indications that the Thai government is changing its refugee policy. It will try to limit the refugees to an area on the border by building camps at which the refugees can stay only temporarily. If this is true, what effect will this have on the battle situation?

[Answer] This is a humanitarian problem. We still hope and believe that the Thai government will not change its position. We feel this way because of what General Prem Tinsulanon, the Thai prime minister, said at the ESCAP conference and which was repeated by the Thai foreign affairs minister.

SIAM RAT: If changes are made in accord with what Colonel Thanat Khoman, the deputy prime minister, has said, will such changes have any effect since Thailand is experiencing a shortage of capital and foreign countries are reducing their aid?

[Answer] We do not think this will occur but, in reality, the fighting and the refugees are separate matters. We have constantly admired and praised the Thai government and people and the people of the world for the help they have given to a people in trouble.

SIAM RAT: What effect will the fact that the Khmer Serei have broken away from and attacked you have on the fighting and is there any cooperation with the Khmer Serei?

[Answer] There are still no cooperative efforts agreed to by higher echelons but there is some cooperation at lower echelons. Whoever joins in the fight against the common enemy can cooperate but their quarrels are a sad thing. We believe that those groups have been infiltrated by the Vietnamese. Vietnam is trying to destroy our solidarity in order to separate us and is trying to infiltrate spys among

us . We have noticed this from the fact that the target of their attacks is not the Khmer Serei but our group even though they have less strength. All together, they have approximately 500 to 1,000 people but this figure is not certain.

SIAM RAT: What help have foreign countries provided and who has provided help?

[Answer] Fighting a guerilla war, we have to rely mainly on ourselves. It is difficult for help from abroad to reach us. But there are friendly countries that are providing help just as they did for the people fighting the war of liberation and as they did for Vietnam and Laos.

Fighting such a war, we have to make the greatest effort possible to protect the farming areas and the places of production. The land that we control is very fertile. At the same time, we must cause as much trouble as possible for the enemy. At present, the enemy is encountering serious economic, social and political problems both from within and outside the country and it is receiving pressure from abroad. This will be one form of help for us if Vietnam receives increased pressure from foreign countries. There is a greater chance that they will be defeated and have to withdraw their troops.

If Vietnam withdraws its troops, this does not mean that they will have withdrawn their forces voluntarily or that they are acknowledging world opinion; they will do so because they have been defeated.

SIAM RAT: Besides what has been said above, is there anything else you would like to add?

[Answer] There is nothing else except that, through you, I would like to thank the Thai government and people and the people of the world who have continually helped the Kampuchean refugees. Our people are presently experiencing very serious problems. As for those who are being given temporary shelter, one day in the future we will take all of them back. We guarantee this.

Because, we must join forces to build a new country.

1943
CS01 4209

DESERTER CLAIMS CHEMICAL WEAPONS USED IN KAMPUCHEA

Paris LE MONDE in French 29 Apr 80 p 7

[Article by P. de B.]

[Text] Strach-Srang--After participating in the parade and the closing ceremonies of the Congress of the Khmer People's Liberation Front for National Salvation he asked to speak to the newspapermen. This Vietnamese artillery officer had deserted his unit, the 75th Division in January of this year after 15 years of loyal service in the People's Army and 11 years in the VCP to enter the territory held by the front. He was a man exhausted by long years of war, who had expected peace in 1975 and had been abandoned by his wife who had wearied of waiting for him. Last year he married a Cambodian who was expecting his child. It was with this woman that he decided to flee and rebuild his life.

He stated that during the time that he was in the army, war gases were regularly used, especially incapacitating gases designated CZ (actually CS) of American manufacture and HZ of Soviet manufacture. They were stored at the former American base of Long Binh near Ho Chi Minh City. These gases can be deadly under certain conditions and do cause secondary effects, i.e., impotence in males and abnormal fetus development in females.

All types of artillery pieces are supplied with chemical munitions and authorization for their use can be given at regimental level. They have been used in large quantities in Kampuchea since last year. He added that they were used at Kompong Cham in January 1979 when 140 rounds were fired in one hour, at Kratie, Sisophon, Poipet, Phnom-Malai and Kompong Speu. In addition, according to him, chemical agents were released in some waterways to poison them.

He also declared that many of his comrades, tired of war, also dreamt of deserting and that they had suffered heavy losses during the attack on Kampuchea and mopping up of the border zones. The Vietnamese, however, had no plans for eliminating these last bases of Khmer Rouge resistance, he said. Questioned concerning international food assistance he told us that rations for his men consisted two thirds of rice donated by international organizations and one third of Soviet wheat.

From 1966 to the taking of Ho Chi Minh City in April 1975 the captain was stationed in the Tay Ninh region along the Kampuchean border. In 1970 he was wounded in Kampuchea. In September 1977 he was returned to this same sector in order to conduct incursions into Khmer territory. "We had the initiative in the attacks," he stated. It was at this time that he participated in raids on Snoul and Mimot and then in November 1978 in a large-scale attack against Kratie.

CSO: 4200

LOCALITIES REPORT FOOD PRODUCTION, SALES

Savannakhet Fields Restored

Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 20 Feb p 5

[Text] 1,187 Hectares of Rice Fields Were Restored and Developed.

The multiethnic inhabitants of the province of Savannakhet have, over the past year, restored and developed 1,187 hectares of fallow rice fields and new rice fields.

Oudomsai Sales

Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 21 Feb 80 p 2

[Text] Sales of Agricultural Products

The multiethnic population of the districts of Muong Houn and Pak Beng, province of Oudomsai, recently sold to the state store over 300 tons of paddy rice, of which 188 tons went to the district of Muong Houn.

Phon Thong, Champassak Sales

Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 22 Feb 80 p 2

[Text] Sale of Rice to the State at Phon Thong

The agricultural and farmers' cooperatives of the district of Phon Thong, province of Champassak, recently sold 104 tons of surplus paddy rice to the state.

Khong Sedone, Saravane Sales

Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 25 Feb 80 p 2

[Text] Rice Sales to the State

Farmers of the four communes of Tanpiao, Kamthong, Khong Sedone, and Nadou, district of Khong Sedone, Saravane Province, sold over 25 tons of surplus paddy rice to the state.

Vientiane Dry Season Rice

Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 27 Feb 80 p 4

[Text] Care of Rice Plants

Since the beginning of January, members of 82 agricultural cooperatives in the district of Hatsayfong, Vientiane Province, actively took care of the rice plants in intensive farming on 720 hectares. In comparison to last year, intensive farming has increased by 406 hectares.

Pak Ou, Luang Prabang Sales

Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 28 Feb 80 p 3

[Text] 159 Tons of Paddy Rice Sold to the State

Last January, the multiethnic population of Pak Ou district, Luang Prabang Province, sold over 159 tons of paddy rice to the state.

Savannakhet Fish Sales

Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 28 Feb 80 p 4

[Text] Fish Sales by Savannakhet Piscicultural Unit

During the past year, the piscicultural unit of Pak Bo, part of the veterinary service of the province of Savannakhet, sold over 41 tons of fish to officials, to the army, and to the local population, thus helping relieve certain problems in their living conditions.

Meuang Sai Sales

Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 29 Feb 80 p 2

[Text] Sale of Rice to the State

The multiethnic population of Meuang Sai District, Oudomsai Province, sold over 14 tons of surplus rice to the state this year.

Dry Season Rice

Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 1 Mar 80 p 3

[Text] Rice Plant Care

Members of agricultural cooperatives and farmers of the prefecture and province of Vientiane, of the province of Savannakhet, of the district of Xien Ngeun, of the district and province of Luang Prabang, of the district of Meuang Sai, Oudomsai Province, of the district of Nhommalath,

Khammouane Province, of the district of Khong Sedone, Saravane Province and of the district of Pakae, Champassak Province, took care of rice plants in an area of 5,000 hectares, of which 2,400 were in Savannakhet, and over 1,000 hectares in Vientiane.

Vang Vieng Sales

Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 4 Mar 80 p 6

[Text] Over 30 Tons of Paddy Rice Sold to the State

The multiethnic farmers and members of the agricultural cooperatives of Vang Vieng District, Vientiane Province, recently sold over 30 tons of surplus paddy rice to the state.

Sihottabong, Phon Hong, Siang Kho

Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 6 Mar 80 p 4

[Text] Paddy Rice Sold to the State

Last January, the members of the agricultural cooperatives and the farmers of the Sihottabong and Phon Hong districts, Vientiane Province, sold over 160 tons of surplus paddy rice to the state.

During the same period, the people of Siakho District, Houa Phan Province, sold 455 tons to the state.

9465

CSO: 4200

BRIEFS

PHON HONG LITERACY WORK--A ceremony to proclaim the eradication of illiteracy was officially organized on 16 February in Phon Hong, Vientiane Province. Messrs Khamphay Oundara, assistant chief of the committee, director of the province and the prefecture of Vientiane, Mouk Phamuong, assistant chief of the educational service of the province, members of the administrative committee of the province, and the inhabitants of the area attended the ceremony. According to the report, there are presently 10,000 illiterate inhabitants in the whole district, that means 80 percent of the population. [Text] [Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 25 Feb 80 p 3] 9465

PAK OU COOPERATIVE--The multiethnic inhabitants of the village of Hatmath, commune and district of Pak Ou, Luang Prabang Province, recently organized a new agricultural cooperative with 110 members on over 600 hectares, with 28 buffaloes and agricultural implements. [Text] [Vientiane BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in French 3 Mar 80 p 4] 9465

CSO: 4200

DEVELOPMENT OF ARMED FORCES TO BE COMPLETED BY 1983

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Mar 80 p 1

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Hussein Onn said today the Government was taking steps to equip the armed forces so that it could carry out its tasks more effectively.

In a message to mark the Army Day tomorrow, Datuk Hussein said the army must be prepared to face any eventuality in view of the developments in the region.

He said the army's role in defending the independence and sovereignty of the country and ensuring security and peace were important contributions towards achieving lasting prosperity in Malaysia.

Datuk Hussein hoped the past successes of the army against the threat of the communist terrorists would be an inspiration to the soldiers.

The Prime Minister said the people and the country appreciated the services of army personnel who carried out their duties with full responsibility, bravery and dedication.

Chief of Armed Forces Staff General Tan Sri Mohamed Bani said today the development of the armed forces would be completed by 1983 when all military hardware including tanks and fighter planes have been acquired and the territorial army fully staffed.

Jen. Tan Sri Mohamed

Bani added that the decision to buy more sophisticated jet fighters had been approved.

He said tanks would be acquired by June and the types would be dependent on the result of an evaluation study that is being undertaken.

Jen. Tan Sri Mohamed Bani said the acquisition of adequate equipment for the armed forces was important.

It must be in line with the country's economic development, he added.

"We cannot have a very impressive standing army as our economic development does not permit it and so we have to emphasise on sound strategies," he added.

On the expansion of the army, Jen. Tan Sri Mohamed Bani said about 30,000 to 40,000 new soldiers would be recruited this year.

He reiterated that the territorial army would be made the reserve unit and would only be absorbed into the regular army if the situation warrants it.

He also announced that a \$50 million Military Staff College, which would include a museum and a conference room, would be built on a 220-acre site near the Templer's Park here under the Fourth Malaysia Plan.

Earlier, Jen. Tan Sri Mohamed Bani opened the Armed Forces Exhibition at the National Museum to mark the 47th anniversary of the army.

WEST MALAYSIA RIDING CREST OF TRADE BOOM

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 11 Mar 80 p 22

[Text]

PENINSULAR Malaysia is currently riding the crest of an unprecedented trade boom.

Ample proof of this is provided in the buoyant trade figures released by the Statistics Department which show that the trade surplus for the 11 months ending November 1979 totalled \$3.5 billion, exceeding the surplus of the whole country in 1978 which amounted to \$3.4 billion.

For the month of November itself, exports dropped slightly from that of the previous month, totalling \$483.4 million. This was however offset by a bigger decline in imports which totalled \$324.3 million, thus giving Peninsular Malaysia a higher surplus of \$260.7 million, as against \$217.7 million in October.

For the 11-month period of January to November, exports totalled \$17.3 billion compared to imports of \$13.7 billion.

The strong trade performance was due to an increase in the volume of exports of most of the major commodities, with the exception of crude

palm oil and the favourable commodity prices during the period under review.

The major export earners contributing to this huge surplus were rubber, palm oil products, tin, petroleum and sawn timber.

For the month of November, rubber exports increased by 27,206 tonnes over that of the same month in 1978 to 143,533 tonnes valued at \$408.6 million. For the 11-month period from January to November, the volume of rubber exports amounted to 1,433,601 tonnes valued at \$3.9 billion as against 1,397,682 tonnes valued at \$3.1 billion for the corresponding period in 1978.

Palm oil products earned a total of \$2.3 billion during the period. In keeping with the government's policy of encouraging greater processing for export, there was a noticeable decline in the export of crude palm oil as against the impressive increases in exports of refined products.

Thus during Novem-

ber, crude palm oil exports plummeted from 56,617 tonnes in 1978 to 38,834 tonnes in 1979. For the January-November period, the export volume in 1979 totalled 687,392 tonnes valued at \$297.3 million compared to 777,411 tonnes valued at \$353 million for the previous year.

Exports of palm olein during the 11-months of 1979 amounted to 430,752 tonnes (255,981 tonnes) valued at \$630.6 million (\$415.1 million).

Palm stearin exports totalled 395,949 tonnes (155,545 tonnes) valued at \$454.1 million (\$182.3 million).

Palm kernel oil exports amounted to 174,542 tonnes (114,429 tonnes) valued at \$332.9 million (\$161.3 million).

There was a drop in the export of tin during November, from 6,055 tonnes in 1978 to 5,310 tonnes in 1979. The export value for the metal were \$196 million in 1978 and \$176.6 million in 1979.

However, for the whole period, tin exports were roughly 2,000 tonnes higher at 66,550 tonnes in 1979, fetching \$2.1 billion

as against \$1.8 billion the previous year.

Exports of petroleum crude experienced the highest increase, from 1,000,541 tonnes valued at \$409 million during the 11 months in 1978 to 1,391,918 tonnes valued at \$1.8 billion.

Sawn timber exports during January-November 1979 totalled 2,630,389 tonnes valued at \$1 billion, compared to 2,308,738 tonnes valued at \$644.3 million for the same period in 1978. This again reflected the high prices fetched in the world markets by tropical hardwoods.

Another significant development was the sharp increase in the export of coconut oil, from 17,016 tonnes valued at \$26.3 million during January-November 1978 to 53,563 tonnes valued at \$115.1 million during the same period last year. The revival of the coconut industry arising from the acute rise in price is clearly reflected here.

Malaysia's major trading partners continued to be the EEC, Singapore, Japan and the United States.

ALL RETAIL TRADE ON METRIC BASIS IN 1981

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Mar 80 p 11

[Text] **KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — It will be compulsory for all retail trade in the country to be conducted in the metric system by Jan. 1 next year.**

The head of the Trade and Industry Ministry's metrication unit, Mr M. Mahalingam, said today steps had been taken to convert the whole retail trade into the metric system by the target date.

As a first step the Government would ban the use of the dacing by Jan. 1 next year. This would be followed by the banning of the yard and weighing machines using the

imperial system.

He said his unit would also embark on a big publicity drive to popularise the metric system.

Notices in all languages would be distributed to shops to help in the changeover while charts would also be printed and issued to consumers.

Mr Mahalingam said so far about 60 per cent of the industry and government departments had gone metric.

The Postal and Customs Departments, he said, were the first to convert to the metric system.

Mr Mahalingam said the metric system, once fully implemented, would benefit the consumers.

This was because all products would be standardised weights.

For example, he said, bread had already be standardised at 600 gm.

To protect consumers further, the Ministry would also ensure that the name of the manufacturer, the place of manufacture, the description of the products and the weight would be clearly labelled on products. — Bernama.

CNO: 4220

DEPLETION POLICY ADOPTED TO PREVENT OIL SHORTAGE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES 10 April 1964 4 May 1964 p 21

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Petronas has started to control oil production to ensure that the country's crude oil resources are not exhausted too quickly.

The National Oil Corporation's Chairman Tan Sri Abdullah Salleh said the "depletion policy" adopted for the conservation of local oil will ensure that indigenous crude is available to the local market for a longer period.

In the process, however, the returns on investment by Petronas' contractors would still remain attractive, he added at the opening of a six-day seminar on the Methodology of Un-discovered Recoverable Hydrocarbon Resources here today.

The seminar, attended by about 100 people, is jointly sponsored by the Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (COOPI) and the Asian Council of Petroleum (ASCOPE).

Tan Sri Abdullah said the depletion policy was a result of Malaysia's recent experiences of petroleum products shortages and of Petronas' own conviction on the need for proper planning in the utilisation of local crude.

He said the recent shortages had taught Petronas to anticipate problems of a similar nature and to look at local resources with greater respect.

Tan Sri Abdullah also said Petronas would open new areas for exploration this year.

In oil reserves, Tan Sri Abdullah said the Government would not appoint anyone outside the Government to manage the reserves of Malaysia's most important fields.

"I hope the experts will agree on the method of developing reserves so that we no longer have vastly different figures on the reserves of any one country," he said.

Tan Sri Abdullah, who is also Petronas' Chief Executive, said Malaysia was fortunate to have natural gas apart from crude oil.

Crude oil from local sources, he added, would not be sufficient to supply the country's requirements for any considerable period of time and Petronas, therefore, had begun to plan the utilisation of gas.

As a first stage, Petronas had developed plans for the utilisation of gas at Bintulu in Sarawak, Labuan in Sabah and Kerteh in Terengganu.

Once the plans were implemented, he said,

Petronas would move to the next stage of bringing gas to other parts of Malaysia to supplement crude oil in meeting the country's energy needs.

Speaking in November last, Tan Sri Abdullah said the depletion policy was part and parcel of the Government's energy conservation policy.

"It involves a very complex formula," he added that Petronas was now communicating with its contractors to explain the policy.

The policy would be implemented stage by stage and at the moment they are already imposing certain technical control on their contractors," he said.

On the opening of new areas for exploration, Tan Sri Abdullah said several companies had indicated their interest and Petronas hoped to send out its bids soon.

He reiterated that Petronas could not afford to be complacent.

At the current rate of production, Malaysia's reserves are expected to be completely drained within the next 10 years.

COUPON SUBSIDY SCHEME FOR RICE FARMERS

Circumvents Middlemen

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 5 Mar 80 p 20

[Text]

THE coupon subsidy scheme for padi farmers will continue as the system ensures that the subsidies given out by the government do not go to those people not entitled to them, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the government decided on the system after it obtained evidence that in the implementation of the subsidy scheme during the

previous drought, the assistance given out often did not reach the genuine farmers.

"The subsidy went into the pockets of middlemen such as (padi) buyers and millers," he said in an interview published in the latest issue of *Merdeka*, the monthly publication of Umno.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the coupon system will do away with this group of people who

will continue to be dissatisfied.

He pointed out that the 6,000 padi farmers involved in the recent demonstration in Alor Star had refused to accept the coupon subsidy system whereas 240,000 padi farmers in the Muda area were satisfied with the subsidy and accepted its method of implementation.

Dr Mahathir said there was evidence that the middlemen had provided financial assistance to the Alor Star demonstrators.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the government is taking steps to explain fully the true situation to the people.

He said the income of padi farmers in the Muda area is the highest compared to that of padi farmers in other areas.

Dr Mahathir said padi farmers in the Muda area actually earn two incomes a year due to double-cropping.

Although the costs of production have gone up, padi prices too have increased, he added.

[Text]

COUPON cashing facilities will be introduced from Saturday to enable padi farmers to obtain cash as the fourth option under the padi price subsidy scheme implemented in Peninsular Malaysia on Jan. 10.

For coupons worth less than \$20, padi farmers can immediately change them for cash. But if the sum exceeds \$20, they will be paid either in cash or by cheque seven days after a sale is made.

This facility is available at more than 300 National Padi and Rice Authority (LPN) complexes and authorized purchas-

ing agents.

Cashing of cheques and coupons worth more than \$20 but less than \$500 can, however, be made only at LPN complexes and a selected number of authorized buyers. There are about 40 such centres at the disposal of the farmers. For cheques valued at more than \$500, the farmers will have to make use of banks.

The introduction of the fourth option was announced by the Minister of Public Enterprises, Datuk Haji Manan Othman, in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr

Mahathir Mohamed told farmers in Kedah during the weekend that the system would be amended slightly to make it more convenient for them.

The scheme, which would cost the government \$65 million a year, gained adverse publicity when several thousand padi farmers held a demonstration in Alor Star just 14 days after it was implemented.

The lack of publicity on the working of the scheme coupled with what the authorities had described as instigations by interested groups, had resulted in the farmers' protest in front of the

state government office on Jan. 22. A curfew was temporarily clamped on the state capital to avoid further incidents.

Although the introduction of the cashing facility would dampen the success of the government's intention to encourage the farmers to save and invest the additional income, it was seen as inevitable in the light of pleas by the padi farmers.

Originally, farmers are required to choose either to invest the money in the Mara Unit Trust or save it with the Pi-

prime Management and Fund Board and the National Savings Bank.

Replying to a question, Datuk Manan said of the coupons issued so far — about \$7 million worth — about 70 per cent opted for the Bank Simpanan Nasional, 25 per cent Pilgrims Management and Fund Board and only five per cent for the Mara Unit Trust.

The situation is expected to be significantly altered with the introduction of the cashing facility as the farmers who sell their grains before Saturday will also be allowed to cash their coupons.

Farmers who sell their crop before this Saturday will be given until April 30 to cash their coupons. Failing this, their original option will be considered as final.

Datuk Manan hoped that despite the introduction of the cashing facility, the farmers will continue to make an effort to save part if not all their additional income.

The minister said coupons will not be issued for padi stored by the farmers (for their own consumption), padi sold to government de-

partments for breeding and padi paid-out as tithes (sakat). Sales to unauthorized dealers will not also be entitled to the coupons.

In the case of padi paid out as tithes, the \$3 per picul coupon will be given to the recipients in the name of the bodies authorized by the state governments for the purpose — generally the state Religious Affairs Department.

It has been calculated that on the average padi farmers will earn an additional \$350 per year (two seasons) on a holding of three acres.

Replying to a question, Datuk Manan said the ministry had taken a close look at the reasons why the subsidy scheme was initially opposed by the farmers.

Business Times understands that some changes are expected to take place in the LPN, the agency responsible for implementing the scheme. It is reliably learnt that at least one top official of the authority will be transferred.

He acted as the minister's top adviser on Jan. 20 when the scheme was first announced.

Present at yesterday's

Press conference were the ministry's senior officials and the chairman of LPN, Datuk Mohd Sopiee Sheikh Ibrahim. Datuk Manan agreed with the suggestion that padi farmers should stagger the sale of their grain to ensure stable prices.

He noted that at the time when padi is in short supply — usually a few months after harvest — rice millers are prepared to pay significantly

higher than guaranteed prices.

There have been instances when farmers in Muda could get as much as \$24 per picul at the peak of padi shortage when millers compete for grain to keep their mills running.

Datuk Manan clarified that the whole of the \$65 million was meant for subsidy. The additional operating expenditure of about \$5 million will be borne by LPN.

COMMUNISTS, OTHER GROUPS WARN AGAINST RIGGED ELECTION

New Delhi THE PATRIOT in English 30 Mar 80 p 3

[Text]

KATHMANDU, March 29 (UPI)

All the groups of the banned Communist Party of Nepal and a major faction of the banned Nepal Congress have said the forthcoming referendum must be held in a fair and impartial manner otherwise its outcome will not be acceptable to them.

These include different factions of the Communist Party led by Man Mohan Adhikari, Keshar Jung Rayamajhi, Bahana Pradhan and extremist groups led in part by

Mr Nirmalokama and in part by Jhapa group.

The Subarna Shum Sher group in the banned Nepal Congress led by S D Upadhyaya and Bakhao Singh Gurunghas also warned that if referendum was at all rigged it would embroil the country in despair and agitation endangering the very future of Nepal. 'Outcome of such referendum would not be credible or acceptable to people' they added.

Communist Party group leader

Man Mohan Adhikari said at a public rally in Siddharthnagar that King Birendra should dissolve the Ministry and start 'direct rule' until referendum to ensure its absolute impartiality.

Meanwhile most local newspapers and weeklies reported that the referendum was likely to be held towards mid-May and exact date might be announced as soon as nearly 10,000 balloting centres report receipt of ballot boxes and papers to the election commission within next few days.

CSO: 4720

PREPARATIONS BEING MADE TO MEET SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGE

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 12 Mar 80 p 6

[Article by Aditya Man Shrestha in Kathmandu]

[Text]

A WIDESPREAD and sustained drought has raised the spectre of famine and has presented Nepal a big size economic headache.

The prolonged drought has wreaked havoc on the country's food production. Estimates are that this year's output will fall short by around 200,000 metric tons.

And compounding the expected food shortage is the fear that the contending parties in the coming political referendum would capitalise on the dreaded famine by hampering on-going relief measures. The referendum is scheduled either in May or June.

The present food crisis is expected to surpass all the crises of the past, prompting the Nepalese government to institute remedial measures to minimise the impact.

First, the government granted extraordinary relief to drought-stricken farmers by waiving land revenue of up to 100 per cent in the lowlands and from 50 to 75 per cent in the hilly regions. This means that the government stands to lose Rs 132 million (US\$5 million) in expected land revenues.

Second, from the Rs 2,000 million (US\$245 million) earmarked for development projects, about Rs 250 million (US\$31 million) has been diverted for the purchase, supply and stockpiling of essential foodgrain to tide over the shortage expected in the mountainous regions that constitute almost two-thirds of the kingdom.

Third, the government has formed a 30-member national committee to take the necessary steps to supply at

least 201,000 tons of foodgrain to offset the expected shortfall of 220,000 metric tons from this year's harvest of rice, maize and millet.

Fourth, the government has issued mandatory instructions to the committees for all government branches relatives to the transport, sale and distribution of foodstuffs in food-short areas.

Negotiations are also under way between Nepal and China for a wheat loan of 10,000 metric tons. North Korea has also been approached for a food loan and has agreed. Several other countries have made offers of assistance.

On the other hand, the World Food Programme has pledged 11,000 metric tons of foodgrain as aid. West Germany has also agreed to supply another 2,000 metric tons.

According to the Food and Agriculture Ministry, Nepal this year needs about 1.72 million metric tons of foodgrain. Only about 1.8 million metric tons are expected from production areas. It has been estimated that one Nepalese consumes 125 kilogrammes of foodgrain per year. The country's population is about 18.8 million.

The current food crisis is foreseen to be more severe than the 1971 disaster. At that time, although Nepal's crops were heavily damaged by excessive rains, no foodgrain was imported. Instead, the traditional export of rice from surplus areas was restricted. The government supplied foodgrain to the deficit areas by air-dropping thousands of bags to the more inaccessible highlands.

Depthnews

PAKISTANIS ANGERED BY CARTER RAID ON IRAN

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Apr 80 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, April 26: The people of Pakistan reacted with suppressed anger over the abortive American military action against Iran.

All sections of the citizens, all over the country, had one topic to discuss - "the naked military aggression" by the Carter Administration.

They fully backed the official reaction to the American adventure.

While "the crude and dangerous attempt" was the main topic in offices, restaurants, street corners, houses, it hit the share market in Karachi severely which went kneeling down. - The market was down by almost 55 per cent as against yesterday's transactions. The turnover was about 2,950 shares less than yesterday's.

In Lahore, the High Court Bar Association, in a resolution suggested that Pakistan put its "full resources" at the disposal of Ayatollah Khomeini to enable brotherly Iran to face the grave challenge from "American imperialists".

Meanwhile, the Acting President of the patriotic Lawyers Association, Mian Bashir Zafar has demanded that all American cultural activities be banned as these in fact were no more than part of their spy network.

CSO: 4220

FILMED PRODUCED ON AFGHAN REFUGEES

Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 20 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

The Federal Ministry of Information has produced a documentary on the large scale influx of Afghan Refugees into Pakistan.

The two-reel colour film depicts pathetic scenes and circumstances which forced five lakh Afghans to flee their country and cross into neighbouring Pakistan posing a great humanitarian problem.

It also gives a complete picture of the relief being provided to refugees by Pakistan Government and the UN Agencies for providing them food shelter clothing and medical care.

The refugees who included a large number of old men and women and children lodged in camps in various parts of Pakistan.

Directed by Mr Mansoor Buzar, the 16-minute documentary has been produced by the Directorate of Films and Publication, Government of Pakistan. It is currently being screened in big cinemas all over Pakistan. —APP.

CSO: 4220

ALLEGED SOVIET FRIENDSHIP FOR ISLAM SCORED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 23 Feb 80 p 5

[Editorial: "Soviet Union's Friendship With Islam"]

[Excerpt] Let us scrutinize the recent statement by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko who claimed greater friendship for Islam than the U.S. Following the Soviet invasion of muslim Afghanistan and the resultant strong opposition expressed throughout the Muslim world, the Soviet rulers have been forced to adopt this attitude inspite of their irreligious and atheistic doctrines. Soviet aircraft have been dropping pamphlets in the rural areas of Afghanistan claiming that the Soviet Union is a neighbor and countering the generally held view that the Soviets are not People of the Book or that there is no religious freedom in the Soviet Union. On the contrary, say the Soviets, they have come to help and put off the fire fueled by the U.S., Egypt and Pakistan.

The Soviet's claim of friendship for Islam is one of expediency resulting from worldwide pressure. Afghan Muslims are fully aware that among them live large numbers of Tadzhiks, Turkmen Muslims, who emigrated to neighboring regions of Afghanistan 50 to 60 years ago. These Muslims, after the communist takeover [of their country], were subjected to extreme cruelties and barbaric treatment. In fact, mosques, religious schools, cemeteries and shrines were either closed or converted into offices, cinema houses, museums and social or cultural halls.

The protests and concerns of the Muslim World against the Soviet Union have proven so effective that even the Soviet ally, Syria, has clarified through its Prime Minister that Syria's participation in the Islamic Foreign Minister's conference in Islamabad did not mean Syria accepted the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Although the Syrian Prime Minister's statement is tantamount to admitting an error, it also signifies that the non-communist world, and especially the Muslim World, views with distaste the Soviet aggression in Afghanistan. In other words, inspite of countries like the apologetic ally, India, the Soviet Union has been fully exposed before world opinion and turned into a political outcast in the international community.

CREDITORS SHOW NO WILLINGNESS TO RESCHEDULE DEBTS

Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 2 Mar 80 p 3

[Excerpt]

ISLAMABAD, Sat. — Pakistan has failed to reap any financial benefit from becoming a centre of attraction since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, diplomatic sources have said.

Unless the creditors reschedule their loans, the Government will have to raise US\$1 billion (M\$2.2 billion) by June to service its debts, the sources said.

The *Muslim* newspaper reported yesterday that donor countries and the World Bank had shown no willingness to reschedule repayments.

"Economic observers have expressed surprise over the attitude of donor countries, especially the U.S. which gave verbal assurances in plenty but did little to meet the country's needs," it said.

Western diplomats said the front-page story appeared to have been officially-inspired.

Quickly bolster

In the wake of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Pakistan believed it would win rapid

Western aid for its shaky economy and creaky military machine.

President Carter offered US\$400 million worth of economic and military aid shortly after the Soviet move, but none has come through.

President Zia derided that offer as "peanuts" and officials said Pakistan was seeking between US\$5 billion and US\$8 billion worth of assistance.

According to independent assessments, Pakistan faces a balance of payments deficit of about US\$1.6 billion.

The debts comprise US\$700 million long-term and US\$900 million short-term loans.

The report said Pakistan had asked its international debt consortium to consider its case for rescheduling when it meets this month and next to discuss aid to Nepal and Bangladesh.

BRIEFS

DOUGLAS HURD ON AFGHANISTAN--British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hurd said in an address to the Middle East Association (MEA) that the Soviet Union wishes a repetition of the same drama in Afghanistan which she staged in Turkestan a century ago, but the Afghan people will never accept Soviet domination. Mr Hurd declared that the Muslim World is not as much in danger from the West as it is from the Soviet Union. Mr Hurd, who has returned from a recent tour of the Persian Gulf, said that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has stirred deep apprehension in the countries of the region and that they consider it a serious threat to their security. At the same time, Pakistan feels threatened by Soviet meddling and direct military intervention. Against the background of Soviet aggression, countries of the region and their allies need to strengthen their cooperation even further. Nevertheless, Mr Hurd said, Britain will not send her forces to the Persian Gulf again. Mr Hurd stressed that the Western countries should try to understand Islam in its proper perspective and improve friendly relations and cooperation with the Islamic World. He also emphasized that efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli Conflict must be continued. [Text] [Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 25 Feb 80 p 1] 9557

CSO: 4211

MANILA PERMITTED TO DRAW ON IMF FUNDS

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 1 Mar 80 p 12

[Text]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29

THE International Monetary Fund announced yesterday that the Philippines will be permitted to draw the equivalent of US\$633 million over the next 22 months to help pay for what it buys in other countries.

These "drawings" are a loan of foreign currency, granted on condition that the country concerned takes some difficult steps to improve its economic position — difficult because the steps can increase unemployment and tighten the supply of money. They are highly valued by borrowing countries, not only for the money itself, but because the approval of the IMF encourages private banks to increase their lending.

The IMF does not announce the conditions it has required for granting the loan, though the bor-

rowing country sometimes does.

The announcement noted that there has been a speeding up of inflation in the Philippines — the annual rate of increase in consumer prices was 31 per cent last October.

Last year, it said, the Philippines bought US\$680 million worth more than it could sell.

The IMF noted that the Philippine government has undertaken to bring down the rate of inflation, and to bring its international payments into approximate balance in the year following the end of the 22-month period. Interest rates have been increased, new taxes introduced and the government has promised to hold down spending.

The Philippines already owes the IMF the equivalent of US\$703 million. — AP

CSO: 4220

RICE EXPORTS TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PLANNED

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 5 Mar 80 p 20

[Text]

MANILA, March 4

PHILIPPINE agriculture officials said today negotiations were being finalized for the export of rice to Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia under rates which would be lower than the prevailing world market prices.

Published reports here today said exportation of rice to Singapore was initially negotiated with some Singaporean officials who came to Manila for the three-day visit of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew last week.

The reports did not specify the volume and value of the Philippine exports to the three countries of Asean but "a few

thousand tons" may be purchased by Singapore.

According to sources, the Philippine government was prepared to give the three Asean nations a price lower than those prevailing in the world market.

Latest world market quotations for rice indicated a price of US\$300 to US\$350 per metric ton. An agriculture official was quoted as saying that the Philippines may be willing to go as low as US\$290 per metric ton.

The Ministry of Agriculture has an exportable rice volume of about 200,000 to 250,000 metric tons and due to the in-

creasing price of rice in the world market, it is not in a hurry to sell its produce, the reports said.

After several years of rice importations, a bumper harvest in 1977 enabled the Philippines to export 67,000 metric tons of rice in 1978 to Malaysia and Indonesia.

In 1979, Indonesia imported another 13,000 metric tons of rice while Brazil started importing 60,000 metric tons of rice from the country.

Under an agreement signed last year, the Philippines was committed to export 310,000 metric tons of rice to Brazil. — AFP

CSO: 4220

HOUSING PROJECTS INCORPORATE SMALL BUSINESS TRAINING

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 13 Mar 80 p 20

[Text]

GOING beyond the mere provision of housing for the lower income group, the Philippines have incorporated into their housing projects, socio-economic development components which seek to create the environment for breaking the cycle of poverty in depressed communities.

The "livelihood" component aims to provide opportunities for marginal and low income families to generate extra income, with investment projects undertaken to create and develop these opportunities.

Presenting a paper on *Effective Management of Service and Infrastructure in Human Settlements: The Philippine Experience*, at the Eastern Regional Organisation for Planning and Housing (Karoph)

meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Maj. Gen. Gaudencio V. Tobias (ret), general manager of the National Housing Authority (NHA) of the Philippines, said these projects include the introduction of small scale and medium size businesses and self-help projects such as home or cottage industries, vocational skills training, cooperative formation and other small business operations.

Other income generating schemes are the provision of capital assistance or loans for productive ventures to family heads or out-of-school youths, the paper said.

In some projects, more extensive and formal types of developments in the form of commercial

and industrial estates are undertaken.

The objective of this is to motivate people to become productive and self-reliant, gradually training them in the management and operation of their own communities through cooperative administration and manpower training.

The paper said that the Philippines, perceiving acute deficiencies in past housing efforts, had departed radically from established approaches to its housing problems.

Strategies instituted for housing have therefore included and involved not only all levels of government but also private entities. Private organisations and resources are mobilised and coordinated in a "joint venture" to adequately meet the housing needs.

Under this joint venture concept, the private sector contributes in the housing effort, land, management, talent, financial network, manpower and technical expertise.

The NHA, on its part, provides interim and/or long term financing to enable joint venture partners to lease out or sell housing units on serviced lots at acceptable rates to qualified beneficiaries.

With the financial constraints common to all housing efforts in mind, cost reducing strategies are put into the area of housing benefits and standards.

FINANCE MINISTER SAYS COUNTRY FACING 'SEVERE' CRISIS

New Delhi THE PATRIOT in English 30 Mar 80 p 3

[Text]

COLOMBO, March 29 (UPI) — **B**ACK from an aid-seeking mission in Vienna, London, Washington, Stockholm and Baghdad Sri Lanka's Finance Minister Romulo De Mel has admitted in Parliament that the Government faced a "severe financial crisis" and likened the island's economy to "a reed blown about by every wind."

About his three-week mission in search of 400 million U.S. dollars (Sri Lankan rupees 6,400 million), all that he said in Parliament was that the aid-giving countries themselves being in dire financial straits, "we cannot go about with the begging bowl in hand for aid."

That the State coffers had become empty was evident when the Government took recourse to issuing Rs 1,000 million in treasury bills in the absence of the Finance Ministry.

According to one economic commentator Sri Lanka owes foreign banks and lending institutions Rs 13,841 million and the treasury's total public debt is Rs 30,773 million. The Central Bank (Sri Lanka's apex bank) is understood to have informed the Government that the inflation rate would be 35 per cent and not 30 per cent estimated earlier.

"That is a terrific rate by any standard, particularly when one considers the maximum rate of 18 per cent interest offered by the National Savings Bank for fixed deposits."

Apart from raising serious doubts about the "credit-worthiness" of the present United National Party Government which has been following the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) the present state of the economy is threatening political stability.

The threat is heightened by the Finance Ministry's ominous warning that the "present rate of inflation might gallop to 100 per cent by 1983 unless corrective action is taken".

The "Nation" weekly organ of the former Premier Sirimavo Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) said in a recent issue that the World Bank and the IMF sources were pressuring the Finance Minister to further devalue the rupee by 40 per cent to overcome the financial crisis generated by the Government's "spending spree."

"Unless the UNP Government devalues the rupee to overcome the economic crisis, it will have to succumb to a premature dissolution of Parliament to meet the

political crisis," the weekly says, adding: "[The 1977 devaluation of the value of the rupee was half-hearted] has failed. What can further devaluation achieve? What can Sri Lanka export?"

Printing treasury bills worth Rs 1,000 million apart, the Government did take a series of "corrective" measures reportedly at the behest of the World Bank and the IMF. Subsidies on all essential commodities were withdrawn and flour, bread, sugar, liquor, tobacco products travel by bus and train, postal and telephone rates, fuel and cooking gas made costlier.

Government leaders, including President Junius Richard Jayewardene, have been taking every opportunity to tell the people that the days of subsidies are gone and that they must tighten the belt and suffer short-term pains for long-term gains. Significantly these "corrective" measures were taken when the Finance Minister was away jettisoning from place to place with a "bowl-in-hand."

Although the Finance Minister sounded an ominous note about the state of the economy, it is now learnt that he did not return empty handed.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

WORST DROUGHT IN CENTURY--Colombo, March 27 (UNI): Sri Lanka is gripped by a drought reckoned by meteorologists as the century's worst. The island's economy has already assumed crisis proportions fuelled by a 30 percent inflation rate attributed partly to "oil circumstances" and largely to "merry spending" of public aid chipped in by Western countries "on political considerations." The current dry spell is threatened to destroy the economic muscles of this island of 14.5 million people. State plantation corporation and Janata estates development board sources say that about 500,000 acres of tea estates and 200,000 acres of rubber estates have been hit by drought. Coconut cultivation board officials do not yet have reliable statistics but they predict a 50 percent to 60 percent fall in the production of nuts, the third biggest foreign exchange earner after tea and rubber. Last year Sri Lanka's deficit balance of trade was placed at Rs. 7,287.8 million, a five-fold increase over Rs. 1,480.3 million deficit in 1978. Tea exports last year nosedived to Rs. 5,699.7 million from Rs. 6,382.76 m. in 1978, while earnings from rubber exports rose by 23.3 percent from Rs. 2,020.54 million to Rs. 2,491.30 million. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Mar 80 p 19]

CSO: 4220

THAILAND

RTA TO ARREST BORDER TRADERS DEALING IN MATERIAL

Bangkok TAWAN SIAM in Thai 31 Mar 80 pp 7, 14

[Article: "The Army Hurriedly Makes Inspections and Arrests and Applies Strict Standards"]

[Text] The day before yesterday, the 29th, at 1030 hours in the area under the control of the 2nd Division, at the village of Nong Kung in Wattananakhorn district, Prachinburi Province, a group of approximately 100 officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and military officials who will be leaving to take up diplomatic posts in various Thai embassies abroad went to observe things along the border in Prachinburi Province. After the members of this group visited the Ban Kaeng temporary rest center for refugees who have fled to this country, which is located in Sarakaeo district in Prachinburi Province, they visited the headquarters of the 2nd Division located in Nong Kung, Wattananakhorn district, Prachinburi Province. They were received by Colonel Bunchai Ditsakun, the deputy commander of the 2nd Division, and Colonel Wichai Ninwiset, the chief of staff of the 2nd Division, gave a brief description of his duties and the border situation here. He stated that at present the military units in the area are cooperating with administrative, political and police units because of the problem of people smuggling things across the border. It appears that people from various provinces have come here in order to engage in trading even though the 1st Army announced on 15 March that border trading is strictly prohibited. But it appears that some people still do not understand. They think that the military units will allow them to engage in trade and so they try to come and carry on trading. Sometimes they bring weapons and other goods that it is forbidden to sell. From news reports, it appears that these various types of goods fall into the hands of the enemy which further increases their strength. This may later prove to be dangerous for Thailand.

Therefore, the military units and local authorities must make closer inspections and arrest those who engage in such trading. Beginning now, they must start using stricter standards. The military units must coordinate things with the provincial authorities. The provincial authorities, district officials and police must cooperate with each other in making inspections and watching for smugglers. At present, most of the people understand this but there are still some people who smuggle in weapons and secretly sell them to Kampucheans along the border. Concerning this, the authorities are constantly conducting inspections and making arrests.

After that, the visiting group went to observe things along the border at Khlong Luk in Aranyaprathet district and visited the Khao Idang refugee camp in Taphraya district. They then went to observe things along the Thai-Kampuchea border in Taphraya district at Non Mag Mun village, returning to Bangkok the same day.

11943

CSO: 4209

THAILAND

LAWYERS ASK FOR MORE FREEDOM OF PRESS

Bangkok TAWAN SIAM in Thai 27 Mar 80 pp 1, 16

[Article: "Lawyers Ask 'Prem' to Repeal the Reform Committee Orders That Restrict the Press"]

[Text] The Lawyers' Association has sent an urgent letter to the prime minister requesting that some of the orders of the reform committee, orders that curtail the freedom of the people and the press, be repealed, claiming that the political situation has returned to normal.

Mr Prathan Duangrat, in his capacity as head of the Thai Lawyers' Association and as a member of the association's executive committee, sent an urgent letter to General Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, requesting that the prime minister and cabinet meet and consider repealing the orders of the reform committee because some of the orders curtail the freedom of the people and because these laws were made at a time when administrative power was held by the reform committee. It was necessary to use these measures, which had a coercive effect, only for a certain period but now the political situation has returned to normal and there have been elections to the House of People's Representatives in accord with the Thai Constitution of 1978. The people have more rights and greater freedom and, therefore, these orders are no longer in accord with the present political situation.

These orders curtail the rights of the people in criminal cases. For example, they cannot appeal the various decisions of the military courts. The losers are the plaintiffs and public prosecutors because they cannot file any charges themselves. These orders have been included in the law code concerning the prosecution of criminal cases and this is creating trouble in general at present.

The various orders that the Lawyers' Association has appealed to the prime minister to repeal include reform committee Order No 1, which concerns the use of martial law and gives the military courts the power to try various types of criminal cases, Order No 8, which gives the military courts the right to judge various types of charges, Order No 14, which defines the meaning of military court in accord with Order No 8, Order No 29, which prohibits appealing the decisions of the military courts, Order No 30, which concerns certain illegal acts not under the jurisdiction of the military courts but which, when added to other charges also outside the jurisdiction of the military courts, come within the power of the military courts to try, Order No 42, which regulates the publishing of various materials, newspapers and announcements by the Ministry of Interior and the order of 8 October 1976, which prohibits the closing of plants and strikes.

The letter sent by the Lawyers' Association stated that the prime minister should consider these problems and solve them in order to have harmony and to support the democratic form of government, which will bring happiness to the people in accord with the promises made by the prime minister on the day he took office.

11943

CSO: 4209

THAILAND

CLOSURE OF USICA OFFICE PROTESTED

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 27 Mar 80 pp 5-7

[Letters to the Editor column by "Khon Kaen University 100%, Khon Kaen Province: "I Miss You 'Uncle Sam'"]

[Text] Not long ago there was a report in Thailand concerning the United States. The report concerned the closure of the USICA office located in the Edwin F Stanton cultural center on Phimphasut road in Muong district, Khon Kaen Province.

While this news is not as important as other news items concerning the United States in other countries, for those who are familiar with and who have used the services provided by this office, this is an interesting and very surprising piece of news.

As for this writer, a person who has long been familiar with and made great use of the services of this office, when I read this news in the newspaper I was very surprised and felt as if I had learned that a close friend was leaving forever.

Thus I felt I should write something in memory to show my affection for this "friend."

The United States International Communications Agency, which is abbreviated as USICA, is really the United States Information Service or the USIS office that many people are very familiar with. Concerning this, many people know of this office and some people may be surprised just like this writer.

USIS was originally a civilian agency of the U.S. government located in foreign countries. Its task was to broadcast news reports of the U.S. government and engage in various types of cultural exchanges with the countries in which the agency

was located. It made contact in various ways such as through personal meetings, printed documents, motion pictures, television, radio, giving information to newspapers and demonstrations, for example.

I cannot say for certain when USICA was established in Thailand. I believe it was at least 35 years ago. If it were a person, we would say that it has reached middle age.

As for the office in Khon Kaen, it was established many years ago and, even though it once had to close, it reopened after only a short period of time. As for the people in Khon Kaen and neighboring provinces, USICA or USIS was like a part of Khon Kaen and the entire northeast.

I still remember the time when I was a high school student in Khon Kaen Province. The history teacher often borrowed and showed films about America. This made this subject very interesting. Later on when I was older and had a chance to study at the university at Khon Kaen, I often borrowed books from the USIS library to help me with my school reports. As for the condition of the libraries at the universities only recently established in the provinces, all those who attended the university at that time will know what I mean.

After graduating from Khon Kaen [university], I was separated from USIS because I had to leave this province to earn a living elsewhere. But everytime I returned to visit Khon Kaen I tried to pass by USIS. When I saw the growth and changes made by this office I felt very happy because the good changes made by this office meant that the people of Khon Kaen and the northeast would receive increased benefits in the form of cultural knowledge and so on from the services provided by USIS.

Even though USIS changed its name to USICA, the activities and services provided the Thai people by USIS remained the same and the services provided to the people increased since the time when I was a beneficiary of such services.

My relatives living in Khon Kaen have told me that at present the USIS library at Khon Kaen has a large number of books, there are English classes taught by Americans and there are color video tapes for viewing. When I learned of these things, I could not help but feel happy about the growth made by the USIS office at Khon Kaen. As time has passed, this office has been of greater and greater benefit to the Thai people.

I believe in my heart that the services and other things provided to the Thai people by USIS had no secret motives or other intentions besides creating a good understanding between the people of Thailand and the people of the United States.

There is only one thing that I do not understand that is: why is the United States rushing to close this office when it has done so much good for the Thai people? Is there anything behind the closing of the Khon Kaen office of USICA or USIS?

The more I think about this the more perplexed I become and no one can give any clear answer besides the United States ambassador.

I have heard that President Jimmy Carter recently stated that the United States would not abandon Thailand if Thailand was threatened from outside because the United States still holds to the terms of the Manila Agreement signed in 1954.

These words by the leader of the United States gave the Thai people a feeling of security but now this feeling of security is disappearing because the present actions of the United States seem to be the opposite of what the United States leader said.

The United States said it would not abandon Thailand in times of danger but the United States is pulling back everything. Even a small government office located in the provinces has been affected and is being closed.

What will such an action on the part of the United States make the Thai people think? Won't they think that the United States is deceiving them again?

Let us stop deceiving each other. Rather, let us face each other and speak the truth. Wouldn't this be a good thing to do beloved "Uncle Sam?"

CSO: 4207

THAILAND

COLUMNIST HITS KHMER SEREI 'BANDITS'

Bangkok TAWAN SIAM in Thai 27, 28 Mar 80

[A Look At the World Today column by Chen Charik: "Khmer Bandits"]

[27 Mar 80, p 2]

[Text] The Situation on the Thai-Kampuchean Border Last Week

A news report states that at 0900 hours on 21 March, Khmer Serei Camp 204, which is under the control of Major Wan Salen and which is located opposite the village of Non Mak Mun in Khok Sung commune opposite Taphraya district in Prachinburi Province, was attacked by another Khmer Serei group under the control of Mr Phrom Sakon. The fight lasted 2 days and it left many people dead and wounded. The fighting this time scattered the approximately 80,000 Kampuchean people living in Camp 204 and large number of them fled in disorder into Thailand.

This news about the Khmer Serei fighting each other was broadcast around the world and almost every Thai newspaper published this news as a major story.

The excpetion is [news about] the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan forces. This group is very quiet or perhaps they are no longer in Kampuchea.

The actions of these Khmer Serei groups have been very strange for a long time now. Analyzed correctly, the daily situation of these Khmer Serei groups may be likened to a trial of strength in which they are fighting to see "who will win and live" in order to determine which group will be the major power in Kampuchea.

Besides the Khmer Serei groups, there is also the Khmer Rouge group, which is under the control of Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan, that was chased out of Phnom Penh by the Heng Samrin group on 7 January 1979 and that has established itself in the dense jungle on the Thai border near Chantaburi and Trat provinces.

According to the latest reports, this Khmer Rouge group is being squeezed into a single group in the dense forest, a tropical forest that is infested with malaria, and it is becoming more and more decimated. From an original strength of approximately 10,000 to 30,000 soldiers, the numbers have decreased greatly and very few are left.

As for the leaders, such as Pol Pot and others, reliable news sources report that most of the Khmer Rouge leaders have fled from the battlefields and gone to live in another country and are directing the fighting over Peking Radio, which regularly broadcasts from Kunming [in China].

But let us return and consider the situation of the Khmer Serei who presently form several groups. In the past, after Prince Norodom Sihanouk was overthrown by General Lon Nol, several Khmer Serei groups came into existence. There was the group of former prime minister Son San and General Dien Den before Kampuchea

[28 Mar 80, p 2]

[Text] became communist and another group under the control of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The struggle between these two groups is being carried on only by seeking support from abroad, that is, from foreign countries, and by relying on diplomacy and public relations using various mass communications. But at the same time, critics have noticed that they are really "hollow" groups and can easily lose their power.

These two Khmer Serei groups strengthened themselves during the period when the new group of leaders under Heng Samrin took administrative control of the country. At a time when they were still weak, the forces of these Khmer Serei groups established bases along the Thai border, especially in the border area near Aranyaprathet and Taphraya districts in Prachinburi Province. This border area forms a plain and communications between Kampuchea and Thailand can be carried on very easily here. The areas to the north and south

of this area are mountain ranges that make communications very difficult.

These Khmer Serei groups later split into several different groups that have fought each other to see who will control a small area only 10 kilometers from the Thai border. There are several of these groups.

The group under Mr Wan Salen calls itself "camp 204." It is located opposite Non Mak Mun, Nong Chan and Khok Sung villages approximately 10 kilometers from the Thai border to the north of Aranyaprathet near Idang mountain.

The group under Mr In Sakhon and Tik Buntha is known as "camp 007." It is located opposite Nong Samet village and Idang mountain. It is approximately 10 kilometers from the Thai border.

The group of Mr In Sakhon, who formerly served as an officer in General Lon Nol's group, was first led by a man named Mun Sari. Later on, Mr Mun Sari was thrown out of the group because of some conflict.

However, this group was under General In Tam, a member of General Lon Nol's group.

The group under Mr Chut is known as "camp 201." It appears that this group was attacked by another Khmer Serei group and that the camp was burned during the period 7-30 December 1979. This group lives about 22 kilometers from the Thai border.

The group under Captain Kong Silo was known as "camp 511." He was a naval officer during the time of Lon Nol and often travelled to Thailand and France. His camp was destroyed by a Khmer Serei group on 8 November 1979.

When Kong Silo was still alive, he told a Thai reporter that he could not get along with other Khmer Serei groups because they were only interested in selling smuggled gold and making profits. They were not serious [about helping the country]. He once joined forces with Mun Sari and In Sakhon, who had separated from Wan Salen, a man who behaved like a bandit. Later on, the Mun Sari-In Sakhon group began acting like Wan Salen and they are now bandits.

All of the above are only a few of the stories concerning the dirty actions of the Khmer Serei groups. There are many more such stories.

Is there anyone who still wants to have dealings with these people? What bad luck!

11943

CS01 4209

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SELECTIVE LIST OF JPRS SERIAL REPORTS

ASIA SERIAL REPORTS

JAPAN REPORT
KOREAN AFFAIRS REPORT
MONGOLIA REPORT
SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT
VIETNAM REPORT

WORLDWIDE SERIAL REPORTS

WORLDWIDE REPORT: Environmental Quality
WORLDWIDE REPORT: Epidemiology
WORLDWIDE REPORT: Law of the Sea
WORLDWIDE REPORT: Nuclear Development and Proliferation
WORLDWIDE REPORT: Telecommunications Policy, Research and Development

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